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SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Emergency assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 47/160 of 18 December 1992 on emergency assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia, the General Assembly, inter alia:

> "3. Appeals to all States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to extend emergency assistance to Somalia, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General and the 100-day Action Programme for Accelerated Humanitarian Assistance endorsed at the Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia held at Geneva on 12 and 13 October 1992;
>
> "10. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Environment Programme, to continue to implement their assistance programmes in their respective fields of competence, within the framework of the United Nations Operation in Somalia, on the most urgent basis, in order to alleviate the suffering of the affected population in all parts of Somalia;
>
> "11. Appeals to all parties concerned to terminate hostilities and to engage in a national reconciliation process that will lead to the re-establishment of peace, order and stability and also facilitate relief and rehabilitation efforts;
>
> "12. Calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian assistance for Somalia;
>
> "13. Calls upon all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to respect fully the security and safety of personnel of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and of non-governmental organizations, and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement throughout Somalia;
>
> "14. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all measures necessary for the implementation of the present resolution, to apprise the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993 of the progress made and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session."

The present report is submitted pursuant to the above request of the General Assembly.

Report to the Economic and Social Council

2. As requested by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council was apprised, at its regular session of 1993, of progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/160. The oral report, delivered by the

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, highlighted the generous response of the international community to the 100-day Action Programme, which covered relief requirements. At the same time, the Council was informed that there remained a substantial shortfall in funds for the 1993 Relief and Rehabilitation Programme. With large parts of the country enjoying much greater security, donors were urged to contribute additional funds so that the proposed rehabilitation projects could be implemented effectively. Their timely implementation would be expected to complement efforts to establish peace and security in all parts of Somalia.

II. BACKGROUND

3. The protracted civil war has left Somalia's political, economic and social structures in ruins. By the latter half of 1992, minimal requirements for sustaining life were non-existent. Food, water and shelter were lacking. Five million Somalis were directly affected by the impact of the war. Just under 3 million people became either refugees or internally displaced persons. Delivery of social services had decreased to minimal levels. One third of the country's physical infrastructure had been either destroyed or was not operational. Two and a half million Somalis were in desperate need of the most basic nutritional and medical services. One and one-half million were in danger of imminent death from famine and disease. It is estimated that over 300,000 people died from starvation or as a result of the conflict during 1992 alone.

III. THE 100-DAY ACTION PROGRAMME FOR ACCELERATED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR SOMALIA

4. The United Nations had launched the 100-day Action Programme for Accelerated Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia in October 1992. The Programme was subsequently extended to the end of March 1993. The response to the Programme by the international community was prompt and generous. A total of US$ 74 million, representing 90 per cent of requirements, was contributed by donors and channelled through United Nations organizations. The United Nations and the international community were ready and had built up the capacity to provide great quantities of relief supplies. However, that capacity was seriously compromised by widespread looting, extortion and large-scale diversion of relief aid.

5. The Second Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia took place at Addis Ababa from 3 to 5 December 1992. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the relief programme and the obstacles encountered and to examine how to go forward in the face of the security problems that plagued humanitarian efforts. Discussions went beyond the scope of the programme itself, with participants emphasizing the need to gradually move from relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction.

6. One of the most important features of the meeting was the participation of Somali political and community leaders, non-governmental organizations and women's organizations. In addition to Somali representatives, Governments, United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Horn of

Africa Committee, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference also participated in the meeting and contributed to making it an expression of concrete and concerted international solidarity.

7. On 3 December, the Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, adopted a landmark resolution (resolution 794 (1992)) authorizing the use of all necessary means to establish a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations in Somalia. The situation had deteriorated to such an extent that the need for armed protection of humanitarian personnel and relief convoys had become urgent.

8. The Somali political and community leaders attending the humanitarian meeting at Addis Ababa, welcomed the adoption of resolution 794 (1992) and issued a declaration in support of the historic decision to send forces to ensure the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance.

9. The first contingents of the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) landed at Mogadishu on 9 December 1992 and gradually secured eight main centres in central and southern Somalia. The presence of UNITAF helped to open up access to remote areas and enabled the delivery of relief supplies to people who would otherwise have starved or died from disease and lack of water.

10. The port of Mogadishu was reopened after many months, and substantial quantities of food and other essential supplies were brought in. Both the port and the airport were put to full use, and improvements were also made to airports and airstrips in rural areas to cope with the massive airlifts of relief. At the same time, repair work was carried out on the major relief supply routes, and some mine clearance was undertaken. A fleet of trucks was brought in from neighbouring countries to accelerate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

11. Many new non-governmental organizations established programmes in central and southern parts of Somalia - the area most severely affected by civil strife and famine. United Nations bodies were able to significantly increase their staff and to expand their activities. The cooperation between the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), non-governmental organizations and the United Nations was very close. International and local non-governmental organizations became major actors and have continued to play a crucial role in many parts of Somalia.

12. The deployment of security forces also enabled the distribution of seeds and tools and a rapid expansion of immunization programmes. It became possible for health and nutrition assessments to take place. The combined efforts of humanitarian agencies and organizations and the security forces led to a dramatic decrease in the death rates and in the levels of malnutrition.

13. One of the major achievements in that period was the high level of coordination between UNITAF and the relief community through the Humanitarian Operations Centre. United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations involved in the delivery of humanitarian assistance could discuss requests for emergency assistance, convoy escorts and security issues. Humanitarian Operations Centres were also established in six other locations.

14. In spite of the presence of UNITAF, the risk to relief workers remained high. A number of Somali and expatriate relief personnel were killed. Theft, looting and extortion continued to plague relief efforts. The resettlement of some 1 million internally displaced people and hundreds of thousands of refugees could not proceed owing to security problems. Armed bands began to create havoc in new areas, including neighbouring countries that had offered hospitality to Somali refugees.

15. It became clear that, unless determined efforts were made to put an effective and widespread disarmament programme into place, the delivery of relief supplies and rehabilitation activities would continue to be impeded. The agreements concluded at the Preparatory Meeting for a National Reconciliation Conference, convened by the Secretary-General in January 1993, were to pave the way for national reconciliation and for disarmament.

IV. THE 1993 RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

16. By the beginning of 1993, the worst of the emergency appeared to be over and the focus was beginning to shift from relief to rehabilitation.

17. The Third Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia was held from 11 to 13 March 1993, again at Addis Ababa. The meeting was attended by 190 Somali representatives - political leaders, community elders, a large number of women and local non-governmental organizations. The Somali participants were the first to underline the importance of security and peace for the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes. Those who came from relatively peaceful areas made pleas for additional support, as they were anxious to consolidate initiatives they had taken to return to normalcy.

18. The 1993 Relief and Rehabilitation Programme, which was launched at the meeting, was designed to address the priority needs of Somalia. The Programme was endorsed as a valid and useful framework for relief and rehabilitation for the remainder of the year. It was seen as part of a continuing process of moving from conflict to peace and from survival to development. It was recognized that adjustments would be made and flexibility maintained, taking into account the reality of the situation in Somalia.

19. Many of the Somalis who attended the Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia stayed on to take part in the proceedings of the Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia, which the Secretary-General convened on 15 March 1993. The participation of a large number of Somalis from non-political groups provided a link between rehabilitation and reconstruction on the one hand and the establishment of peace and security on the other. In this way, the interface between humanitarian assistance and peacemaking was being given an impetus. And the message delivered to the political leaders was unequivocal: unless they took concrete steps towards establishing peace, the international community's willingness to assist Somalia would be seriously undermined.

20. The Conference on National Reconciliation endorsed the outcome of the Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance and condemned attacks on relief

personnel and relief supplies. The message from the Coordination Meeting had, therefore, not been sent in vain.

21. On 26 March 1993, the Security Council adopted resolution 814 (1993) expanding the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM). The Council requested the Secretary-General to provide assistance to Somalia covering economic relief and rehabilitation; the repatriation of refugees and the resettlement of internally displaced persons; the re-establishment of national and regional institutions and civil administration; the re-establishment of Somali police; and mine-clearance. UNOSOM II took over the task of UNITAF in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance and in continuing and expanding efforts to establish security throughout Somalia.

22. Relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts are central components of the overall attempts to rebuild Somalia and to achieve long-term stability. However, the actual amount of funds made available for these efforts has been disappointingly low. To date, only 20 per cent of the requirements of the 1993 Relief and Rehabilitation Programme ($160 million) has been made available.

V. CHALLENGES FACING THE HUMANITARIAN MISSION

23. One of the principal challenges now facing the humanitarian mission in Somalia is the prevention of a return to widespread human suffering. The creation of a secure environment throughout Somalia is essential for effective relief and rehabilitation activities, as well as eventual development work which must be undertaken. While activities in Mogadishu South have been curtailed as a result of continued instability in that part of the city, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations have extended their assistance to all parts of Somalia, including the north-west and north-east.

A. Continued relief requirements

24. The major problems in the emergency phase have, for the most part, been successfully addressed. However, there continue to exist pockets of acute nutritional and medical problems. Targeted feeding programmes of dry food distribution will continue for the foreseeable future. About 1 million affected Somalis require assistance through the provision of shelter, medical care and life-sustaining articles such as clothing, blankets and cooking utensils.

B. Resettlement

25. It is estimated that as many as 1.7 million people were forced to leave their homes as a result of the turmoil and the famine. Of these, over 1 million crossed into Kenya and Ethiopia. Over 250,000 persons moved to Mogadishu and about 60,000 persons to Kismayo and Baidoa. Some 20,000 persons have returned to Bardera over the last two years. The northern regions are supporting at least 250,000 internally displaced persons and refugees.

26. The number of refugees returning from camps in Kenya is not yet significant. It is estimated that some 70,000 refugees in the Mombasa area have

returned by boat to Kismayo, Mogadishu and Bossaso. Full assistance packages are being provided to refugees returning to the Gado area, and minimal assistance to those spontaneously moving into the Lower and Middle Juba areas. It is estimated that these latter areas will receive the greatest number of refugees per square kilometre.

27. Until recently, political tension both in Dobley and around Kismayo, precluded the spontaneous return of refugees and displaced people to the Lower and Middle Juba. Agreements reached between elders at Dobley, the recently completed peace conference at Kismayo and the successful resettlement of more than half of the Kismayo displaced have increased the attraction of early return to home areas.

28. Humanitarian agencies have worked effectively in coordinating approaches to the issue of resettlement. An agreement is in place on providing support for resettlement efforts. This agreement is centred around several basic principles, which include the following:

(a) That the focus of all efforts should be directed towards development of community capacity to create a welcoming environment for returnees;

(b) That the decision to return must be freely arrived at and the timing of the movement determined by returnees themselves.

C. Rehabilitation of social services

29. Among the principal victims of the protracted conflict was an entire generation of Somali children denied access to education. Schools and educational institutions have been closed for long periods, and many teenagers and orphaned children joined the militia or gangs of looters and armed robbers.

30. As a result of the civil war, all the schools were thoroughly stripped of everything except the walls. Many had been used as graveyards. In the last six months, non-governmental organizations reported that over 23,000 primary students have been enrolled in 22 schools in the Bay, Bakool and Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle regions. This is the largest education programme being run in Somalia at the present time. It is a vital ingredient for the well-being of the community and confers benefits on present and future generations of Somali people.

31. Some 32 hospitals are now operating throughout the country, as well as 81 mother and child health centres. One hundred and three mobile vaccination teams are covering the country, working towards ensuring a sustainable immunization coverage. The estimates are that about 75 per cent of children under five years of age have received measles vaccinations under very difficult operational conditions. Supplies, medicines and other equipment are made available to hospitals, health centres and pharmacies through United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

32. In the Juba Valley, collaborative efforts have been undertaken in order to assist in rehabilitation of school structures and provision of books and other equipment, as well as food, for teachers and students. Some 150,000 textbooks

are being printed for distribution throughout Somalia. These texts conform to the former core curriculum and cover the Somali language, mathematics, science, Islamic studies and Arabic. One educational development centre has been established in Mogadishu and seven additional ones will be functioning by the end of 1994.

33. The teachers are now being identified, with the support of non-governmental organizations, to design and implement training workshops on the methodology of teaching, usage of books and guidelines, introduction of the new curriculum and management of resources, including textbooks. A scholarship programme for Somali university students to complete their studies abroad has been established, and contacts have been made with specialized institutions to get the programme under way.

34. Mogadishu's main water supply system has been rehabilitated to 40 per cent of its pre-war efficiency. City water-supply systems in Afgoi, Hargeisa and Berbera have also been rehabilitated. About 60 per cent of Hargeisa's population now has access to clean water. Adequate quantities of chlorine tablets are now available throughout the country to disinfect water. Sanitation activities in support of the safe water programmes include installation of pit latrines, provision of health education services, a major waste disposal exercise and emergency cleaning of sewage and drainage systems in Mogadishu.

35. Throughout 1992-1993, several attempts have been made by United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to maintain sanitation projects within environmental health programmes. In Mogadishu, a food-for-trash project is proceeding on a trial basis. Bags of food are handed out three days a week in exchange for bags of trash collected by communities. Thirty-five feeding centres distribute 10 metric tons of food per site, three times a week. This exercise embraces all previous feeding centre beneficiaries. Other similar sanitation projects have been supported as food-for-work programmes throughout Somalia.

D. Rehabilitation of the agricultural sector

36. Agriculture has historically been responsible for two thirds of Somalia's employment and nearly three quarters of the country's foreign exchange earnings. A good measure of success has been achieved in reactivating food production and the livestock sector. The provision of seeds and agricultural tools, together with good precipitation, has resulted in a substantial increase in the gu (rainy season) harvest. The delivery of relief food aid has been adjusted to take into account the availability of local food supplies. Relief organizations have also purchased food in the country in order to stimulate local production.

37. In the livestock sector, the supply of veterinary drugs and the vaccination of animals has facilitated the resuscitation of exports, with an estimated total of approximately 250,000 heads of livestock having been exported since April 1993.

38. Targeted support in these areas holds great promise for returning large numbers of enterprising Somalis to productive endeavour. These efforts will help remove some of the main constraints to expansion and growth.

E. Resuscitation of commerce and trade

39. Commercial and trading activities have shown very encouraging signs of recovery. Commercial traffic at Somalia's port has increased dramatically since December 1992, with ship movements at Mogadishu port having increased tenfold in the first half of 1993. Joint ventures between Somali and foreign investments are on the rise. One of the notable initiatives is the proposed restoration of telecommunications services. Another key development is the provision of fuel throughout the country by local companies.

F. Planning for economic recovery

40. UNOSOM, the World Bank and UNDP are collaborating effectively, and a detailed draft planning framework for reconstruction and recovery has been developed and will be examined at the next World Bank informal meeting on Somalia, scheduled to take place on 22 October 1993.

41. The purpose of developing the framework is to ensure that scarce domestic and international human and financial resources are used to their fullest potential to support the re-emergence of the country as a stable and economically productive member of the international community. Given the continuing fluid nature of the situation in all regions of the country, it is important that the process of programme planning and implementation be a dynamic one, and this requires a coordinating framework capable of responding to changing conditions.

42. The specific objectives of the framework are as follows:

(a) To establish a common vision of the economic and social reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of Somalia;

(b) To identify criteria that would lead to the establishment of priorities for reconstruction and rehabilitation;

(c) To establish a mechanism for coordinated action on reconstruction and rehabilitation in an environment of constrained human and capital resources. The resultant mechanism should be capable of being passed on to a future Government of Somalia, whatever its form, as a basis for development planning.

43. Implementation of reconstruction is only viable if it takes place in the context of a gradual shift of civil authority from UNOSOM to a successor Somali authority. Somalia has potential for sustained growth, which in the long run could bring all Somalis above the poverty line. However, critical to the realization of these prospects for growth is the establishment of an environment of good governance, characterized by political stability, adequate supporting infrastructure and effective public institutions.

44. Somalia will need external assistance to start the process of reconstruction and rehabilitation of essential infrastructure, and while international partners are already investing in these areas, there is need to agree on priorities for action and a mechanism for coordination. In this respect, there are already signs that some of the interventions made in the

relief phase of the crisis are unlikely to be sustainable in so far as the present and future capacity of the country is concerned. For example, the salaries now being paid by numerous agencies and organizations operating in Somalia, as well as payments for services, are at levels which cannot be sustained in the future.

45. In all these efforts, the sustained support of the international community is critical. In spite of setbacks, Somalia has come a long way from the devastating famine of 1991 and 1992. The international community has shown compassion to the suffering people of Somalia and has been generous in providing relief assistance.

VI. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. United Nations Children's Fund

46. During the period under review, UNICEF assistance has focused on providing relief and survival assistance to vulnerable populations, especially those directly affected by conflict and drought, and re-establishing access to basic social services, especially health, nutrition, water supply, sanitation and education.

47. UNICEF has directly implemented or supported supplementary feeding centres in the most severely affected famine areas of the central and southern regions. At the height of the nutritional support programmes in November and December 1992, UNICEF was providing supplementary food and other assistance (feeding kits, etc.) for up to 177 feeding centres, reaching 164,000 beneficiaries. Despite very significant improvements in the nutritional status, indications are that, in many areas of central and southern Somalia that have not received sustained relief intervention, up to one half of the child population is malnourished.

48. The lack of access to basic health services, combined with a reduction in household food security, conflict and massive population displacement, have led to rampant and unnecessary deaths. By early 1993, UNICEF's response to these causes included provision of drugs, medicines, medical equipment and construction materials, training of health workers and logistical support to 20 hospitals, 49 mother and child health (MCH) centres, 32 outpatient departments and 151 rural/community health posts throughout Somalia. In most regions where MCH services constituted the only health service available to the population, UNICEF, in conjunction with other agencies and non-governmental organizations, concentrated on assisting the population to re-establish these community-based health services. With measles recognized as a significant threat to the child population, UNICEF, partner non-governmental organizations and local health authorities have targeted vaccination as a priority, along with vitamin A supplementation. Since August 1992, over 400 vaccinators have been trained, and the resource capacity significantly increased. By the end of May 1993, more than 640,000 children had received measles vaccinations and an equal number a dose of vitamin A.

49. Lack of access to potable water and limited sanitation facilities have led to very high rates of mortality and morbidity from diarrhoeal diseases. In a complementary approach with expanding access to potable water, use of oral rehydration salts (ORS) to prevent diarrhoeal dehydration has been a focus of basic health activities. Distribution of ORS sachets has been undertaken by UNICEF to health centres and hospitals operated by local and international non-governmental organizations and local health authorities throughout the country. In addition, workshops have been conducted for the control of diarrhoeal diseases. UNICEF has assisted in the reactivation of urban water supply systems in three major cities including Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Berbera, benefiting about 820,000 people. In addition, in conjunction with Swederelief and OXFAM, UNICEF has undertaken the reactivation of small-scale urban water supply in six locations, as well as the construction and relocation of 75 shallow wells in six other locations. It has also assisted in the chlorination of 500 wells all over the country.

50. In a programme to re-establish household food security and coping mechanisms, a number of farming families who remained in their communities along the Juba Valley and in the Lower Shabelle regions were assisted in a joint UNICEF/OXFAM programme prior to the minor rainy season (Der) of October 1992. Agricultural inputs, as well as household utensils and shelter material, were provided to some 11,000 families in Lower Juba and to 7,000 families in Lower Shebelle. A seed multiplication programme was undertaken to ensure seed-availability for the major rainy season (Gu), which commences around April.

51. As the situation in the north-west improved in 1992, UNICEF worked with 57 communities to develop a model for rebuilding primary education systems. Community-based school committees, formed by residents, were given responsibility for reconstructing school buildings, managing the facilities and recruiting teachers. UNICEF supported the provision of tools and construction materials, textbooks and education kits and the training of primary school teachers.

B. World Food Programme

52. The World Food Programme has continued to provide relief food to 1.2 million victims of the civil conflict. However, concerted action has been taken to phase out this relief assistance by August 1993, which is the period of the main harvest. In order to better address food security issues, dry ration distribution was shifted from towns to villages, to encourage the return of the displaced populations back to their villages of origin and to improve food availability at the household level. In the urban areas, a large part of the population continues to be without the means to support itself and needs assistance to meet basic food needs. Intensive and supplementary feeding programmes continue, as nutritional surveys have concluded that the rate of malnutrition and mortality is still high among children under the age of five.

53. Between February and May 1993, over 65 rehabilitation and resettlement projects were supported by WFP, targeting over 528,000 beneficiaries. The projects covered up to six regions in Somalia. As many as 21 non-governmental organizations, both international and national, participated as implementing partners of WFP. The Programme plans to expand this assistance, concentrating

D. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

66. The activities of UNHCR presently focus on implementation of the preventive zone cross-border operation in southern Somalia as well as on preparations for the anticipated return of refugees from Ethiopia, Djibouti and Kenya.

67. The cross-border operation from Kenya to Somalia commenced in September 1992, with UNHCR acting as lead agency. The operation initially aimed at preventing refugee outflows into neighbouring Kenya. Working closely with non-governmental organizations and local Somali leaders, a number of community-based Quick Lasting Impact Rehabilitation Projects (QLIPs) were initiated in sectors such as health, water, sanitation, education, agriculture and livestock. Progress achieved through the cross-border operation has created conditions favourable for large numbers of refugees in camps in eastern Kenya to opt for voluntary repatriation to the Gedo and Middle and Lower Juba regions in Somalia. Some 200,000 Somalis are expected to repatriate during the course of 1993 at an estimated cost of US$ 48 million, covering basic services and rehabilitation needs.

68. Twelve international and eight local non-governmental organizations are involved in the implementation of 185 QLIPs in the sectors of water, health and sanitation, education, agriculture and infrastructure rehabilitation. Some 12,000 refugees have repatriated to the Gedo region with UNHCR assistance, while it is estimated that an additional 20,000 have returned spontaneously. To date, some 188,000 Somali refugees in refugee camps in Kenya have registered to return home. Security remains a major concern, however, particularly for the operations out of El-Wak through Doble.

69. In addition to the cross-border operations, UNHCR is assisting with the transport of internally displaced persons from designated areas, wishing to return to their home villages in the Gedo and Middle and Lower Juba regions in Somalia.

70. The operations plan for a returnee assistance programme in north-west Somalia was reoriented in 1992 towards implementation of community-based QLIPs to benefit both returnees and those who remained at home. Rehabilitation projects in sectors such as water, health and sanitation, education, agriculture and livestock will be implemented in areas of return.

71. In spite of the security constraints referred to above, the de-mining operation funded by UNHCR and implemented by Rimfire International, a company based in the United Kingdom, continued satisfactorily in 1992. UNHCR's contributions totalled some US$ 3 million by the end of 1992. In 1993, some US$ 2.3 million is foreseen to cover requirements of the de-mining operation. Estimated overall requirements for 1993 to cover rehabilitation and reintegration projects to benefit returnees in north-west Somalia amount to US$ 13.9 million.

E. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

72. In addition to regular situation monitoring, FAO and WFP mounted a joint crop and food supply assessment mission to Somalia in February 1993 to estimate the 1992-1993 der (secondary) season cereal and pulse harvest and forecast the cereal import and food aid requirements until the gu (main) season harvest in August 1993. In April-May 1993, a FAO mission reviewed the possibility of setting up a food security unit and formulated a draft project document in support of the establishment of an early warning and food information system for implementation when conditions would permit.

73. FAO has identified and is currently implementing some 15 projects in the value of US$ 5.3 million in Somalia. These projects are almost exclusively of an emergency assistance nature, aimed at reactivating the food and agriculture sector of the Somali economy. They involve emergency provision of cereals and vegetable seeds, pesticides, hand tools, animal traction assistance, emergency assistance to control trypanosomiasis in one district, decontaminating the East Africa Locust Control pesticides spill that occurred during the civil war, emergency assistance for desert locust control, reactivating veterinary clinics in various districts, provision of veterinary drugs, vaccination of livestock and rehabilitation of abattoirs, some modest provisions of fishing gear for fishermen and income-generating activities for women. FAO has scheduled a multidisciplinary mission with the objectives of reviewing the current state of food and agriculture in the country, rehabilitation activities and developing a programme approach for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the food and agriculture sector with a view to achieving food security and sustainable agriculture and rural development.

74. The sources of financing for these projects consist of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme amounting to more than US$ 1.4 million, Trust Funds of US$ 3.4 million from Italy, US$ 1.1 million from the Netherlands, US$ 1.2 million from Sweden and US$ 0.6 million from Canada, France and a number of other donors, including UNDP, non-governmental organizations, etc. In addition, FAO now has a fully established representation to help monitor and support its field programme in the various parts of the country.

F. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

75. The first of the UNESCO-German supported "islands of education for peace" (or regional education centres) started its work on 1 April 1993 at Mogadishu. The first tasks will be to repair the selected school building, edit textbooks for grades I to IV and reprint them and prepare teachers' guides with lesson plans for each textbook.

76. Under the supervision of the UNESCO Education Adviser in Somalia, it is foreseen to prepare textbooks for children and a "teacher emergency package" consisting of developing support for schools, teachers and agencies engaged in the development of education in the Gedo region of Somalia.

77. UNESCO participated in a WFP-organized project identification mission to Somalia in February 1993. In the field of education, the mission identified

three main options for using food aid: feeding children at school, using food as partial payment for teachers and reconstruction/rehabilitation of schools through food-for-work activities.

G. World Health Organization

78. WHO utilized funds from the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and commenced implementation of activities with a short lead-time. WHO has implemented emergency programmes aimed at reducing mortality and morbidity by improving access to basic health services.

79. The capacity of WHO on the ground has been reinforced with 9 international staff and 53 nationals in 8 offices in Somalia and logistics offices at Nairobi and in Djibouti.

H. International Fund for Agricultural Development

80. The North-West Region Agricultural Development Project (Phase II) was designed to increase the productive capacity and incomes of about 6,250 small-scale subsistence farm families (45,000 people) by improving soil moisture conservation, increasing grain, fruit and vegetable production and strengthening local institutions.

81. The long-term objective of the Livestock Health Services Project (Livestock Development) is to reduce economic losses in the livestock sector by creating an efficient disease-control programme. The beneficiaries of the project were intended to be approximately 108,000 nomadic pastoralists and small-scale farm families who have an annual per capita income of approximately US$ 50.

82. The Bay Region Agricultural Development Project (Phase II) was designed primarily to build upon phase I of the Bay Region Agricultural Development Project, taking advantage of the promising results obtained by applied research in assisting farmers with productive investments in areas where the preconditions for development have been established. The project is intended specifically to target about 25,500 farm families (180,000 people). Women represent a significant portion of the planned beneficiaries.

I. Economic Commission for Africa

83. ECA hosted, at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, the Second and Third Coordination Meetings for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia in December 1992 and March 1993, respectively.

84. Even though the situation in Somalia still has a long way to go before it can be considered normal, ECA, within its mandate, and as the test of its Agenda on Emergency Humanitarian Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Affairs in Africa, has initiated the process of formulating a master plan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country.

J. World Bank

85. In October 1992, the World Bank made available a grant of US$ 20 million to assist in relief and rehabilitation. Most of this grant was used to help cover the costs of transport and logistics to deliver food and medical assistance and was implemented through agreements with WFP, UNICEF and WHO. The portion of the grant being implemented by WFP, however, is expected to include some post-relief assistance, financing a team of port management consultants who will be responsible for port administration.

86. The World Bank has organized a series of informal consultations with the aim of developing a planning framework for reconstruction and recovery. The next such meeting is scheduled to take place on 22 October 1993.

K. United Nations Environment Programme

87. UNEP's assistance during the period under review, was largely limited to the assessment of the dumping of hazardous wastes in Somalia. A UNEP mission was fielded in October 1992 to carry out investigations on the alleged dumping of hazardous wastes.

L. United Nations Population Fund

88. UNFPA has interrupted its activities in Somalia because of the unstable situation. However, a request for assistance in undertaking a survey, which would cover social, economic, demographic and health aspects of the Somali people, is under consideration.

M. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

89. UNCHS (Habitat) has expressed its readiness for immediate fielding of an assessment mission to identify housing and infrastructure needs, including other human settlements assistance and rehabilitation for the displaced at Mogadishu and other major towns.

N. World Meteorological Organization

90. WMO is ready to field a mission to assess the existing meteorological and hydrological facilities and to formulate a project for their rehabilitation once the security situation permits.

VII. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY MEMBER STATES

91. The Member States listed below have provided information on assistance rendered to Somalia in compliance with General Assembly resolution 47/160.

A. Antigua and Barbuda

92. The Government has made a cash contribution to the Trust Fund for Somalia - Unified Command.

B. Denmark

93. In 1992, Danish emergency assistance to Somalia amounted to DKr 104,915,439, channelled through international, as well as Danish, non-governmental organizations. In 1993, Danish emergency assistance has amounted to DKr 15,577,879, channelled through the Adventist Development Relief Agency, UNHCR and Danish non-governmental organizations.

C. Germany

94. In 1992 and 1993, Germany contributed an amount of approximately DM 78.5 million for bilateral humanitarian assistance so far. These funds were mainly used for projects of non-governmental organizations. Considerable amounts have also been spent for projects of ICRC, the "Technisches Hilfswerk" and for airlifts between Mombasa and Somalia. Furthermore, a food-for-work project in the north-western part of Somalia has been supported bilaterally.

95. During 1993, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development intends to take up again technical cooperation with projects in the north-eastern part of Somalia.

96. The projects that had already been started within the framework of emergency assistance include water projects (Technisches Hilfswerk), aid to communal reconstruction in the Gardo region, as well as consultancy and support to communities for infrastructural reconstruction in the areas of water supply, hygiene and construction of schools, streets and housing. It is also planned to rehabilitate veterinarian welfare centres.

97. The Government of Germany intends with these projects to integrate dismissed militiamen and thus to contribute to the social pacification and reintegration of these groups into their communities.

98. The costs of the already more concrete economic cooperation projects in Somalia are estimated at approximately DM 15 million.

D. Italy

99. Since last year, Italy has financed various programmes of emergency assistance to Somalia up to a total amount of 82.8 billion lire (approximately US$ 55 million) of which 58 per cent is earmarked for multilateral assistance and 42 per cent for bilateral programmes.

100. In response to the Emergency Programme for Somalia and the Horn of Africa the Government of Italy approved a contribution of 36 billion lire, which was allocated to various projects implemented by United Nations organizations. The main areas of assistance include strengthening of coordination of international assistance, health care, water supply, sanitation, agricultural inputs and logistical support for food aid.

101. The Italian non-governmental organizations operating in Somalia, on the basis of a recent allocation of 11 billion lire, will work in close cooperation with United Nations agencies, which will provide technical and financial assistance, supplies and equipment on the basis of agreed strategies and work plans.

102. For the future, the Government of Italy intends to support activities in the main priority areas discussed during the Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia, which took place in March 1993 at Addis Ababa.

E. Liechtenstein

103. The Government of Liechtenstein has put 30,000 Swiss francs at the disposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross for a special assistance programme in Somalia.

F. Netherlands

104. The total assistance by the Netherlands for Somalia in 1993 amounts so far to f. 39,784,969. These funds have been channelled through organizations, UNOSOM, ICRC and non-governmental organizations. The major areas of assistance include food aid assistance to Somali refugees in Kenya, health and nutrition, water supply, sanitation, livestock development and other relief and rehabilitation programmes.

G. Norway

105. The Government of Norway has so far contributed approximately US$ 6.4 million in official humanitarian assistance to Somalia in 1993. The contributions have been directed to various relief and rehabilitation projects being implemented by United Nations organizations, ICRC, the Norwegian Red Cross and non-governmental organizations. These projects include mine-clearance and awareness and rehabilitation of health facilities, schools and telecommunications.

106. In addition, Norwegian non-governmental organizations have contributed approximately US$ 0.4 million to the above-mentioned projects.

H. Saudi Arabia

107. Since the civil war, food aid with a total value of US$ 15 million has been provided. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques donated US$ 5 million from his private account to alleviate the burden of the famine crisis of the Somali people. The Government also donated 5,000 boxes of foodstuffs, which were delivered by the High Commission for the Collection of Donations to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Somalia.

I. Sweden

108. The Government of Sweden has contributed emergency assistance valued at Skr 163.8 million in the 1992-1993 fiscal year and Skr 56.4 million so far in the 1993-1994 fiscal year. The funds were channelled through United Nations organizations, ICRC and non-governmental organizations and were allocated for relief and rehabilitation programmes and to cover the cost of a field hospital.

109. In addition, part of the Skr 210 million provided to UNHCR, ICRC and non-governmental organizations for programmes in Africa has been used for Somalia.

J. Turkey

110. The Government has contributed food, medicine and basic health care relief worth a total of 38.5 billion Turkish liras (US$ 4.2 million).

VIII. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

111. The instability in Mogadishu South in recent months obliged some of the humanitarian programmes to be disrupted, albeit on a temporary basis. The situation in that part of the city understandably causes concern since there continue to be relief needs in Mogadishu itself and a number of areas also depend on supplies being dispatched from Mogadishu.

112. The response to the United Nations appeal for funds for the 1993 Relief and Rehabilitation Programme has been disappointing, with only 20 per cent of the requirements met so far.

113. In spite of the shortage of resources and the instability in Mogadishu South, considerable and commendable efforts have been made by UNOSOM and United Nations organizations, ICRC and international and local non-governmental organizations to implement relief and rehabilitation programmes throughout Somalia. A number of indications would suffice to show the broad picture: starvation has largely been eradicated; children who, only a few months ago were dying of preventable diseases, have now been protected through vastly improved nutrition and massive immunization programmes; schools and vocational and

teacher training centres are gradually reopening; food production has exceeded expectations; livestock development has been supported through the provision of veterinary services; and commercial activities have steadily increased.

114. These encouraging developments could quickly be reversed, however, unless increased and sustained assistance is provided by the international community. In particular, high priority must be accorded to funding projects that will make a concrete contribution to a more secure environment and to resettling refugees and displaced persons.

115. Under the auspices of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Humanitarian Division of UNOSOM, a series of informal consultations have been held at Nairobi between the United Nations, Governments providing assistance to Somalia and non-governmental organizations. There is a clear commitment to work together to meet the immediate as well as the longer-term requirements.

116. As a follow-up to the Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia, held in March 1993, and building on the subsequent series of consultations organized by UNOSOM and the World Bank, I shall be convening a conference on humanitarian assistance in November. As the shift from relief to rehabilitation gains momentum, it is essential that adequate resources be made available for rehabilitation programmes to be implemented in the next five to six months, until plans for longer-term recovery programmes can be put into effect. Unless the required support is forthcoming, the urgent task of achieving long-lasting peace and security will be made more difficult. Security is a prerequisite for the effective delivery of assistance for relief and rehabilitation, and without such assistance, it will be difficult to promote national reconciliation.

117. It is also absolutely essential that Somalis be fully involved in planning and implementing longer-term recovery and reconstruction programmes. It is expected that these key issues will be taken up at the proposed conference.

118. In concluding this report, I wish to pay a special tribute to all the Somali and international relief workers for the selfless way they have continued to help those in need.

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Regional economic integration among developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/145 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly pointed to the substantive importance of integration among developing countries for the strengthening of growth and socio-economic development; it decided that activities promoting economic integration among developing countries should be given special attention in the revision of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and recommended that such activities be included as separate subprogrammes, where appropriate, in the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 taking into account the need for coordination and the avoidance of duplication; it requested the regional commissions to contribute together with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to the identification, preparation and implementation of specific projects to facilitate economic integration and to submit them to bilateral donors, regional development banks and financial institutions for their consideration; and it requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-eighth session on the progress in the implementation of the resolution.

II. REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997

2. The medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised in 1992, 1/ contains detailed references to measures envisaged by UNCTAD, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) as follows:

(a) UNCTAD: Subprogramme 8 2/ entitled "Enlarged economic spaces, regional integration processes and systemic issues of international trade" of programme 13 aims at: (i) helping ensure that economic integration arrangements impart dynamism to global trade and growth and enhance the trade and development possibilities of all countries, particularly developing countries, and that they serve to strengthen the multilateral trading systems; (ii) contributing to the achievement of an equitably secure, non-discriminatory and predictable international trading system; and (iii) contributing to the promotion of regional and subregional economic integration, particularly among developing countries, as a complementary means of strengthening the trade liberalization process in order to facilitate, in a timely way, the smooth and equitable integration of all countries in the international trading system;

(b) ECLAC: Subprogramme 14 3/ entitled "Regional integration and cooperation" of programme 33 has the following objectives: (i) to promote the full utilization of the multilateral and bilateral cooperation mechanisms contained in regional and subregional integration and cooperation schemes with a view to expanding intra-regional trade; (ii) to support Member States in the formation of united regional positions in the various forums for multilateral negotiations in which they participate; (iii) to advise the countries of the region on financial integration, particularly with a view to the development of institutions to facilitate the allocation of investment resources in the region; and (iv) to promote the exchange of experience in various areas of common interest, especially economic and social planning, science and technology,

on the following activities throughout Somalia: targeted free distribution, vulnerable group feeding, food-for-work, institutional feeding (hospitals and prisons), assistance to the education sector, resettlement/repatriation and market sales schemes.

54. In the case of food-for-work, food aid has acted as an incentive to encourage people to undertake, for example, sanitation and water works schemes. In the education sector, food, as a wage substitute, has encouraged the return of teachers to the school and increased the attendance of the children. As urban unemployment is an important issue that needs to be addressed, WFP and CONCERN have initiated a nutrition programme that provides commodities to newly emerging bakeries to make buns for the school programme. WFP and UNICEF are also developing other employment schemes. Programmes to resettle the internally displaced, as well as to assist the return of Somali refugees from neighbouring countries, constitute the largest part of the WFP programme in terms of beneficiaries and are considered a high priority. Finally, the WFP/CARE market sales programme has expanded into three other areas, in addition to Mogadishu. The programme has not only increased its market capacity, but the increase in funds will enable a more labour-intensive scheme to be supported.

55. WFP has taken the lead in food-aid coordination by chairing a committee of relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, which meets regularly, sharing information on food aid programmes and deliveries. The committee has also developed a strategy that ensures that crop and food supply assessments are carried out on a regular basis by the committee members, in order to ensure that up-to-date information is always available for consultation and quick intervention if necessary.

56. WFP has completed two assessments, one on truck rehabilitation and the second on the management of Mogadishu port. Both projects will be operational during the second half of 1993, as all of the necessary preparatory work has been completed and the funding is available.

C. United Nations Development Programme

57. The United Nations Development Programme, during the Coordination Meeting for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia, held at Addis Ababa in December 1992, made a strong commitment to support development and initiated a number of projects that are now operational.

58. A rehabilitation programme strategy was formulated in December 1992 by a UNDP/Office of Project Services mission assessing needs initially in the northern region, and UNDP resources in the order of US$ 20 million were programmed in close consultation with UNOSOM and other partners, including national and international non-governmental organizations. The Somalia Rehabilitation Programme (SOM/92/001) serves as a mechanism to establish a network of, initially, seven project implementation offices, each covering two to three districts, operated by a small expatriate team supported by national experts. Four project implementation offices are now in the process of being established, and six international project staff have taken up their assignment in northern Somalia.

59. The Programme operates through local-level community groups and local authorities. Specific mechanisms to identify, select and approve sub-projects were developed at the outset of the project and, as the Programme evolves, are periodically reviewed.

60. A total of 19 sub-projects are operational in the northern region and one in the south. Sub-projects include school rehabilitation, bridge repair, re-establishing of market facilities, including collection of user fees, training of former militia in employable skills and negotiating agreements with local business groups to provide employment, repair of small irrigation facilities and provision of agricultural implements. Infrastructure repair activities include establishing technical and management capacities to ensure that the facilities are properly maintained. At present, 32 additional sub-projects have been identified. It is expected that the expansion of project activities will soon cover areas in the central and southern region.

61. One major subcontract with Save the Children, USA, co-financed by USAID, to rehabilitate large-scale irrigation systems and social infrastructure in the Lower Shebelle region, has demonstrated that development inputs in a region initially dominated by conflict can become productive again.

62. In order to support the political and peacemaking process, a project was approved to prepare a medium-term reconstruction and rehabilitation plan (SOM/93/001) for Somalia. In May 1993, a first phase technical planning team produced a framework for the preparation and coordination of the medium-term plan and terms of reference for the technical inputs. Subsequently, in consultation with donors and multilateral organizations, UNOSOM decided that it would take the responsibility for the overall coordination of the plan preparation and delegated the responsibility to the World Bank, in close coordination with UNDP, donors, other multilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations.

63. UNDP is funding an International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)-executed project (SOM/93/002) to restore air traffic control at Mogadishu International Airport, to be expanded to other airports at a later stage.

64. A UNDP project executed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (SOM/93/003) aims to build the management capacities of the Mogadishu Port Authority and other ports in Somalia. A key component of these projects is to support the re-establishment of installations, which will help to generate much-needed revenue in the near future. This project is being undertaken in close coordination with UNOSOM and WFP.

65. UNDP, with financial and material support from the Government of the United States of America, continues to operate the Mogadishu water supply system. This project (SOM/90/023) played a key role during the crisis in 1992 in preventing large-scale epidemics caused by contaminated water from shallow wells. A new phase, with activities proposed to build a water authority as the lead institution responsible for supplying town water, is under consideration. Under the same project, a sanitation programme is being implemented, which employs up to 1,000 Somalis, mostly women, through subcontracts with local non-governmental organizations.

commissions, to avoid duplication and wastage of resources and rationalize fund raising for economic integration.

V. ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

11. The Cartagena Commitment on a new partnership for development (TD/364) adopted at the eighth session of UNCTAD, held in February 1992, recognized the need for revitalizing and strengthening the framework for economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC). The Conference viewed such collaborative working framework as an important component of efforts to promote economic growth in developing countries and as a means of securing the integration of developing countries into the world economy. Against this background and in pursuance of the institutional parts of the Cartagena Commitment, the Trade and Development Board, at the second part of its thirty-eighth session, held from 21 April to 7 May 1992, adopted the terms of reference of the new Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (see A/47/15, vol. I, decision 398 (XXXVIII)).

12. The Standing Committee, guided also by paragraphs 3 and 8 of its terms of reference, discussed, inter alia, two sets of support activities to complement efforts of developing countries in this respect. One set of activities related to the financial and other support by the international community in general to help meet the needs and requirements of the actions in the field of ECDC, and the other set of activities related to operational activities to be undertaken by UNCTAD in support of ECDC.

13. At its first session (11-15 January 1993), the Standing Committee established its work programme which, inter alia, made provisions for regular consultations for a pragmatic policy dialogue among the donor community, subregional, regional and interregional groupings, as well as other participants in ECDC programmes and projects with a view, in particular, to mobilizing support for designing and implementing regional initiatives, interregional activities and networking of integration and cooperation schemes. In order to establish agreed arrangements for the conduct of the regular consultations, the Committee decided that:

(a) An intergovernmental group of experts to hold consultations with interregional, regional and subregional groupings should be organized prior to the second session of the Standing Committee (February 1994), with a view to collecting relevant information from the donor community and preparing prospects for improvement of assistance programmes. Participants in ECDC programmes and projects were invited to present their developmental objectives and external assistance requirements to this intergovernmental meeting;

(b) The second session of the Committee should review the report of the intergovernmental consultations, with a view to identifying specific programmes, projects and measures for international support.

14. To launch the donor-recipient regular consultations and to make it "demand driven", the UNCTAD secretariat has sent questionnaires to all relevant participants in ECDC programmes and projects to ascertain their developmental objectives and external assistance requirements, and also to the potential donors and their institutions so as to report on their existing economic assistance programmes favouring the regional economic cooperation and integration process of the developing countries. Based on that information, the UNCTAD secretariat is planning to prepare a policy-oriented background paper which will present preliminary suggestions for possible improvements in scope and features of the economic assistance programmes of the donor community. The UNCTAD secretariat considers that the establishment of such a mechanism is both an important political breakthrough, as well as a reaffirmation of General Assembly resolution 45/203 of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly expressed its support for the efforts of the UNCTAD secretariat as the principal organization in the United Nations system dealing with ECDC.

15. Technical cooperation activities carried out by the UNCTAD secretariat in recent years for ECDC encompass assistance to economic cooperation groupings, cooperation on financial and monetary matters and enterprise cooperation initiatives. A number of other related activities, for example in the area of transport and finance which also promote ECDC, can be found in the document entitled "Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD" (TD/B/WP/76).

16. In Asia, the UNCTAD secretariat is associated with a project to assist member States of the Bangkok Agreement. UNCTAD developed and provided trade data covering products of export interest to the prospective member States and of import interest to member States of the Agreement. In addition, in response to the request of participating countries of the Bangkok Agreement, UNCTAD, in cooperation with ESCAP and UNDP, has undertaken the necessary technical studies for the establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service for Asia and the Pacific.

17. The UNCTAD secretariat also provided assistance to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU). A number of technical studies were prepared on the benefits and costs to individual ESCAP member States of joining ACU. For instance, two studies related to the cost and benefits of China and the Philippines joining ACU are in progress currently. These formed the basis for consultations among the ACU and ESCAP members during a meeting organized jointly by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, ESCAP and UNCTAD.

18. For the members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), UNCTAD supported the meeting of the national coordinators on ASEAN banking and financial policies, held in Thailand. The meeting drew up a set of concrete policy recommendations to the ASEAN Standing Committee, which met in December 1991. In addition, the UNCTAD secretariat assisted the ASEAN secretariat in preparing and organizing a seminar on ASEAN subregional cooperation with particular reference to the ASEAN scheme for an ASEAN free trade area, held in June 1993.

19. The United Nations/Chitose Forum on South-South Cooperation with particular reference to Asia and the Pacific, organized jointly by UNCTAD and the United Nations University (UNU), met from 11 to 15 May 1992 in Chitose City, Hokkaido,

Japan. On the agenda were the various issues related to South-South cooperation, particularly in Asia and the Pacific. The Forum examined the factors favouring the dynamic performance of the developing economies in the Asian and Pacific region in the 1980s, at a time when most economies in the rest of the developing world were stagnating. The Forum also discussed the important role of the donor countries as well as that of financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, in promoting regional economic Cooperation.

20. The UNCTAD secretariat assisted, in July-August 1992, the Tumen River Area Development Programme, which aims at improving economic cooperation between China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation by making assessments of prospects in the area of transport and mineral resources.

21. In the Arab countries, in cooperation with the International Trade Centre (ITC) and UNDP, UNCTAD is assisting the Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP) through the drafting of a manual on the operational procedures of loans and credits extended by ATFP to its national agencies. Support was also provided to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in particular as regards the harmonization of tariffs and related measures.

22. In Africa, the UNCTAD secretariat provided assistance to ECOWAS in the areas of coastal shipping, common external tariff and monetary and financial cooperation. With regard to coastal shipping, on the basis of a study undertaken earlier by UNCTAD, the practical aspects of the implementation of its recommendations were explored with the ECOWAS secretariat, and a promotional meeting of Governments, subregional organizations and potential investors was held in April 1992. As regards the common external tariff, meetings of customs administrations, government officials and economic operators of member countries were organized in 1991 with a view to examining the basic aspects of a common external tariff for ECOWAS. In respect to monetary and financial cooperation, UNCTAD prepared terms of reference and a work programme relating to the establishment of a single monetary zone. Support is being provided to the group of experts of central banks in charge of the implementation of a programme for the eventual full convertibility of ECOWAS currencies. Substantive technical support to the West African Clearing House came to an end in February 1993, after the preparation of a compendium containing the studies prepared for the workshop with the conclusions and recommendations reached at the meetings.

23. In the case of ECCAS, UNCTAD continued to provide assistance relating to the rules of origin and harmonization of trade and customs documents, regulations and legislation. A study on the ECCAS compensation fund for loss of budgetary resources consequent to the implementation of the trade liberalization programme was undertaken in 1992. With regard to the Common External Tariff (CET), the study undertaken for ECOWAS on the basic aspects of a CET is being adapted for ECCAS.

24. In southern Africa, assistance was given to Lesotho and Swaziland under a subregional project, from which Botswana and Namibia also benefitted, in preparing for negotiations with the Republic of South Africa regarding the Southern African Customs Union Agreement (SACU). This assistance involved the

preparation of a number of technical studies and memoranda on various aspects of the SACU Agreement as well as negotiating briefs for use of negotiators.

25. The Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern African States continued to be a major beneficiary of UNCTAD assistance in various areas of the PTA's economic cooperation and trade liberalization programmes. The UNCTAD secretariat is currently undertaking a major project with the PTA secretariat on customs administration in the PTA markets. Other activities include technical work for payments and monetary harmonization, and trade facilitation measures.

26. In the area of transport, particularly rail transport, the UNCTAD secretariat is helping to promote regional integration by the introduction of new technology-based management systems aimed at improving transport efficiency. A cargo tracking system is being installed on several African railways in West, Central and Eastern Africa. The system (Advance Cargo Information System) plays an important role in the development of trade relations and above all in reinforcing subregional integration because it enables all operators who belong to the system to communicate, through modes and interfaces and over borders, the vital information that is required for them to improve transport efficiency; thus the costs of the carriage of goods are reduced. Further, the UNCTAD secretariat is helping to facilitate the trade of African land-locked countries through improved transit traffic facilities and streamlined documentation and thereby deepen subregional integration.

27. Most of the activities in the enterprise sector have been undertaken in the framework of technical assistance projects by UNDP. This was the case for the meetings of trading enterprises from Africa and Latin America, which led to the establishment of the Association of African Trading Enterprises, the buyers and sellers meeting organized in Argentina for African entrepreneurs, the Savana meeting of enterprises from Africa, Asia and Latin America and Europe, the meeting of Trading enterprises of Asian and Latin America countries of the Pacific rim (Santiago, November 1992) and the activities for the establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service for Asia and the Pacific.

28. Under a separate project, UNCTAD provided assistance to the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of Countries (ACP) by preparing a draft programme of work for the establishment of joint enterprises by investors of ACP countries.

29. Under the project started in 1991 on financial and other support to regional and subregional integration groupings, the UNCTAD secretariat has reviewed current international economic assistance programmes for regional groupings and how they are utilized in order (a) to identify the areas where support from the donor community is needed and (b) to prepare the basis for a new approach to economic cooperation between the regional groupings, on the one hand, and the donor community, on the other. Based on the information so obtained, suggestions will be made to improve the modalities and structures of economic assistance for regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration groupings.

30. Activities have been initiated by UNCTAD to enhance exchange of experiences among subregional economic integration groupings. The experience of the ASEAN subregion, in particular its "Dialogue Partners" relationship with donor

developed countries, has been selected as offering useful guidance in facilitating such subregional cooperation.

31. One area that is being explored by UNCTAD is the potential for regional and subregional economic cooperation of the Central Asian Republics with the neighbouring Asian economies. Possible areas for cooperation could be (a) linkages with the private sector institutions and business of the region, (b) the development of intra-trade, (c) improvement of the investment climate, particularly intraregional public/private foreign investment, (d) broadening and streamlining of the border trade, (e) provision of credits and financial support for trade, (f) improving and rationalizing the institutional and legal structure to foster growth of the private sector in trade, production and services in collaboration with the subregional and regional capacities, (g) potential for joint ventures, and (h) macroeconomic policies in favour of subregional/regional economic cooperation.

32. In view of the diversity of technological development and capabilities of the developing countries, the pooling of resources through varied forms of cooperation becomes even more of a strategic necessity. Among areas which may be explored to this end, the following could be considered: (a) facilitating collaborative ventures among enterprises relating to technology through, for example, setting up common corporate legal requirements; (b) devising more flexible mechanisms for implementing cooperation regarding, for example, sectors and geographical locations; (c) systematically exploring and improving information flows concerning possibilities for technology and business ventures cross-regionally; (d) designing intercountry schemes for improving creativity and innovation, particularly through diverse forms of incentives and motivation; and (e) increased and improved programmes providing opportunities for the training and retraining of personnel, particularly managers and technology innovators, and including the provision of course materials, among developing countries and in the developed countries' enterprises.

33. The UNCTAD secretariat has started to examine the ways in which the international community can work out blue prints of programmes for a comprehensive rehabilitation of Cambodia as a matter of urgency with a view to launching a number of actions required. If these programmes are implemented, it would necessitate the support of the international community through multilateral or bilateral measures.

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

34. The medium-term workplan of the Commission for the period 1992-1997 was modified according to the provisions of Assembly resolution 46/145. Specifically, for the biennium 1994-1995, the creation of a new subprogramme 14 "Regional integration and cooperation" was approved, which contains the following three thematic areas:

14.1 Analysis and support of the regional integration and cooperation processes

14.2 Cooperation and assistance in specific fields to countries of the region

14.3 Relations of Latin America and the Caribbean with other developing regions

35. Within the context of those subprogrammes, the following activities are foreseen for the next two years:

1994

Non-recurrent publications

A study on the current status of integration efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean and the medium-term outlook in this regard. This document will include proposals for resolving the chief problems that are found to exist. (14.1)

A study on cooperation and integration in key production sectors, particularly as regards opportunities for cross-complementarity and free access to expanded markets. (14.2)

1995

Official records and records of meetings and conferences

Meeting of experts to analyse the situation and outlook of regional integration and cooperation (14.1)

Non-recurrent publications

An examination of the possibilities of aligning the various integration schemes and subgroupings existing in the region as well as the problems in this respect. The study will also propose approaches for arriving at agreements of an increasingly multilateral nature. (14.1)

A study on possible areas and modalities of cooperation in the intra-regional production and marketing of services among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. (14.2)

A study on economic cooperation between the developing countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and those of Africa and Asia, to include proposals for strengthening the economic links among these regions. (14.3)

C. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

36. ESCAP attaches high priority to economic integration among developing countries in the Asia and Pacific region. Accordingly, the Commission at its forty-eighth session set up a subsidiary legislative body known as the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation to provide new impetus to the process of integration. The Committee has been enjoined by the Commission to perform, inter alia, the following functions:

(a) To serve as a mobilizer of ideas, a forum for policy-oriented discussion and a catalyst for action to promote regional economic cooperation;

(b) To initiate policy-oriented studies on regional economic cooperation;

(c) To identify potential areas for regional economic cooperation, recommend appropriate policy options and assist regional members and associate members of the Commission in implementing measures to achieve such cooperation by encouraging, facilitating and sponsoring consultations through the establishment of working groups, including expert and technical groups and other appropriate arrangements;

(d) To devise ways and means of establishing dialogue with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donor countries within and outside the region in its initiatives and activities to promote regional economic cooperation;

(e) To carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to regional economic cooperation.

37. With a view to operationalizing the functions of the Committee, ESCAP formulated a subprogramme on regional economic cooperation (programme 31, subprogramme 1) embodying activities for the promotion of economic integration. The objectives of the subprogramme are, inter alia:

(a) To analyse emerging trends towards greater complementarity and interdependence among countries in the region with a view to evolving an effective implementation of policies that would take advantage of growing opportunities for mutually beneficial regional economic cooperation;

(b) To minimize problems and to take advantage of opportunities that growing interdependence might provide;

(c) To manage the smooth transition of the countries that are undergoing process of transition to market economy in the region and facilitate their eventual integration in multilateral trade systems and in the regional division of labour;

(d) To expand interregional trade;

(e) To mobilize resources for trade related investments with particular emphasis on improvement of accessibility to export finance for small and medium-scale exporters in the developing countries;

(f) To integrate industrial activities at the regional and global levels.

38. Many projects have been conceived and will be implemented during 1994-1995 biennium to fulfil the medium-term objectives of the subprogramme on regional economic cooperation. A summary picture of these activities is given below.

39. Regional economic integration among developing countries can be promoted through a variety of activities - formal institutional arrangements for trade,

investment, technology transfer, transport and communications as well as exchange of information and experiences and formal or informal policy coordination in various development issues. Accordingly, ESCAP has addressed the subject of regional economic integration in a wide range of fields.

40. At the macroeconomic level, the activities are primarily in the form of exchange of information and experiences. The main modality is publication of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, the 1992 issue of which also dealt with regional cooperation in trade and investment; the Economic Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, which publishes articles on development experience in the region, and Development Papers, which are addressed to some specific development themes. While work in the recent past has investigated subjects such as government expenditure, social costs of economic restructuring, ongoing tasks include tax reform and liberalization of the financial sector. As regards 1994-1995 biennium, the workplan includes activities relating to modelling, subregional interlinked macro-economic systems, privatization, and investment policies. Specific project proposals on these topics are under preparation for extrabudgetary financing.

41. Considerable work has also been done in the industry and technology sectors. The Commission is implementing the Seoul Plan of Action for Promoting Industrial Restructuring in Asia and the Pacific, under which several activities aimed at promoting regional cooperation in the areas of industrial development and restructuring and in technological development and transfer have been initiated. ESCAP, in compliance of its resolution 49/3, is also implementing the provisions of the Teheran Declaration on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Technology-led Industrialization in Asia and the Pacific, which seeks to promote a greater understanding in the region of the linkages within industry and the role of the private sector. Other areas relating to greater regional interaction that have also been addressed in the work of ESCAP secretariat include biotechnology, consultancy services, integration of the production process across countries, standardization, metrology and quality control, technology transfer, and agriculture machinery.

42. In the field of international trade, the secretariat is implementing an action programme for regional economic cooperation in trade and investment. Under the terms of the action programme, particular emphasis has been accorded to the study and analysis of regional and subregional trade flows, strengthening of the regional trade information, networking of trade-related research institutions, review of sectoral foreign direct investment inflows and policies, establishment of a regional investment information and promotion services, regional commodity problems, environmental issues related to trade and investment, and inter-subregional cooperation. The action programme also addresses the role of regional cooperation in stimulating the development of small and medium export-oriented enterprises and the integration of the central Asian republics into the region. Since trade and investment is the core of all integration initiatives, activities of the secretariat also encompass organization of trade fairs, publication and dissemination of traders' manuals, and issues relating to agricultural commodities of importance in the region's trade. The secretariat is, moreover, pursuing activities related to enhancement of regional cooperation in tourism, and in support of harmonization of foreign direct investment policies within subregions.

43. In the field of transport and communications, ESCAP's work is focused on the modernization and upgrading of the region's transport and communications infrastructure under the Regional Action Programme for Phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific. Activities are being pursued for the development of land transport linkages and facilitation measures under the Integrated Project on Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development comprising the Asian Highway, the trans-Asian Railway and facilitation of land transport projects. In that regard, special attention is being paid to the needs and requirements of the new members of ESCAP from Central Asia. ESCAP is also making efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in the development of waterborne transport. Various ideas have been promoted for fostering regional integration, including the development of railway networks linking the southern ports in the Persian Gulf to the northern boundary of the Islamic Republic of Iran with Turkmenistan as well as railway connections linking the north-eastern railways of the region. A study is also expected to be undertaken in the near future to assist the Central Asian States of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to determine the most appropriate corridors to a seaport.

44. In addition, the subprogramme on environment and sustainable development has identified specific activities that would enhance regional cooperation in the minerals sector, and these relate to the areas of mineral economies, mining legislation and investment promotion in the mining sector. Under this subprogramme, a number of initiatives are being taken by ESCAP towards implementation of the Regional Strategy on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development and of Agenda 21 at the regional level. ESCAP is pursuing efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in such areas as transboundary environmental problems, desertification, protection of marine ecosystems and water resources as well as in creation of environmental awareness. The secretariat will also be actively involved in implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Meeting on Space Applications for Development, to be hosted by the Government of China in 1994, with a view to strengthening regional cooperation in the utilization of advanced technologies for development. Efforts are being made for the development of regional cooperative responses through, for example, the proposed establishment of the North-East Asian regional environment programme and initiatives taken to promote intercountry networks such as the regional network on research and training on desertification control in Asia and the Pacific, the regional network of environment and economic policy research institutions, and the regional working group on marine environment and oceanographic study. Similarly, ESCAP's work in statistics facilitates regional economic integration through promoting the use of consistent concepts, definitions, classifications, and frameworks. In this regard, a project on assistance in the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA), which is likely to commence in 1994, is a good example, as is the ongoing implementation of Phase VI of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), which should assist the process of economic integration by providing more realistic estimates of comparative price levels and economic size.

45. Given that regular budget resources in the United Nations system are extremely limited, vigorous mobilization of extrabudgetary support seems vital to the task in hand. With this in view, specific projects that facilitate economic integration are submitted to bilateral donors, regional development banks and financial institutions for their consideration. During the

forty-ninth session of the Commission, held at Bangkok in April 1993, it was noted that despite the substantial increase in recent years in the demand by members and associate members for technical cooperation activities owing to the enlargement of the membership of the Commission, the emergence of the disadvantaged economies in transition, the urgency of environmentally sound and sustainable development and new regional or global initiative, the level of extrabudgetary assistance received by ESCAP had decreased during the past two years, from $8.64 million in 1990 to $6.98 million in 1991 and $6.87 million in 1992. However, establishment of new joint cooperation funds between ESCAP and developing member countries of East and South-East Asia, which had experienced rapid economic growth during the past 10 years, could be to the mutual benefit of the developing members themselves in general, and for regional economic integration in particular. Alternative extrabudgetary funding mechanisms could consider a subregional programme approach, or be restricted for the benefit of a special group of countries, or even be in the form of local cost contributions and/or contributions-in-kind.

D. Economic Commission for Africa

46. ECA finds the provisions in the medium-term plan (1992-1996) of the Commission for the promotion of regional economic integration valid and adequate. The plan, therefore, does not require any revision in that regard. The biennial programme of work and priorities may, however, need to be adjusted over time as appropriate.

47. One of the main challenges of ECA is to promote economic cooperation and integration in Africa. To this end, ECA over the years has pioneered the establishment of multinational economic groupings and institutions at both the regional and subregional levels as a strategy for spearheading collective development over a wide spectrum of economic and social fields including mineral resources, science and technology, industry, trade and human resources development.

48. Worthy of mention is the emphasis laid by the Lagos Plan of Action (A/S-11/14, annex I) on the integration of African economies, the mobilization and utilization of Africa's human and material resources for this purpose and the imperative for the coordination and harmonization of socio-economic policies among existing and future economic communities, the ultimate goal being the establishment of the African Economic Community by the year 2000.

49. Within this overall strategy of subregional and regional institution building to foster socio-economic development and integration, there was an imperative need for the harmonization and coordination of activities. This was a sine qua non for a coordinated development to take place and thereby the attainment of the goal of economic cooperation and integration.

50. In each of the subregional economic areas, there are, in addition to economic groupings spread over the entire subregions, other competing smaller economic groupings with similar aims. These groupings compete for the same resources and funds from either the same national governments or international development and financial institutions for similar activities.

51. With regards to specific operational activities in the field of economic cooperation and integration in Africa, the Commission has executed or is currently implementing the following multisectoral projects funded by UNDP: (a) short-term consultancies; and (b) multisectoral assistance projects to ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC).

1. Project on short-term consultancies

52. An immediate problem that ECA sought to address was to ensure the coordination and harmonization of programmes and activities among subregional and regional economic groupings and thereby promote the optimum utilization of what material and human resources are available.

53. In the same vein, the project sought to ensure that appropriate and effective linkages were established among national, subregional and regional development programmes and projects concerning African countries.

54. A third concern of the project was to provide advisory support at the request of Governments in some special areas such as the rational exploration of common natural resources, particularly in relation to the development of river and lake basins. In this context, the project attained the results discussed below.

(a) Design of multisectoral projects and project documents with appropriate linkages at the national, subregional and regional levels

55. During the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle, there was a strong need to assist the main subregional economic groupings of PTA, the West African Economic Community (CEAD), ECOWAS, ECCAS, UDEAC and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) to come up with viable multisectoral project proposals aimed at promoting economic integration in their respective subregions. In this connection, a process of consultations was initiated between ECA and these groupings.

56. Through the project ECA was able to generate a general consensus and a clearer understanding on the multisectoral approach to the formulation of projects of the economic groupings and provide technical support in the design and preparation of multisectoral project documents relating to the following economic groupings, PTA, ECCAS, ECOWAS and UDEAC. ECA also assisted a number of river and lake basins organizations such as the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Kagera Basin Organization as well as the Indian Ocean Commission to formulate their development projects.

(b) Coordinated programme of activities for and between selected economic groupings

57. Through the project, ECA undertook extensive consultations with economic groupings in Central Africa, namely CEPGL, UDEAC and ECCAS, and assisted them to draw up a scheme for coordinating and harmonizing their activities to avoid wasteful duplication of effort in certain key sectors.

58. Thus, ECCAS was to be responsible for coordinating activities related to the agricultural and industrial sectors, especially basic industries, and for the elaboration of a master plan of transport networks. Once the plan is drawn up, UDEAC and CEPGL in addition to ECCAS (to cover the non-UDEAC and CEPGL countries) will be charged with the responsibility for implementing the plan.

59. In the area of market integration, CEPGL and ECCAS were respectively assigned responsibility for infrastructural development and the elimination of custom barriers, with the latter taking into account of work already done by UDEAC.

60. Efforts towards the institution of similar arrangements for the West African subregion are being pursued under the aegis of the Association of West African intergovernmental organizations (IGOs).

(c) Technical assistance to Governments and proposals for the effective development of African river and lake basins

61. A number of requests for technical assistance were received from Governments and IGOs within the framework of the project. With respect to assistance to Governments, advisory missions were conducted to Guinea, Burundi and Equatorial Guinea.

62. As regards the river and lake basins, the project assisted in the preparation of a preparatory assistance project for OMVS in relation to hydroelectric development and irrigation. The project, however, was unable to be funded by UNDP.

63. Overall, the project's strongest achievement has been the promotion of an institutionalized process of consultations among African IGOs with a view to coordinating and harmonizing their programmes and activities. Through the project, a strong awareness of the imperative for harmonizing activities of the IGOs has been created.

64. In terms of proposals for the rational exploration and development of common natural resources in particular African river and lake basins, the preparatory assistance project of the OMVS in which the project assisted in drawing up, was to have served as a pilot case for the rational development and utilization of hydroelectric and irrigation potentials of Africa's river and lake basins. However, the project could not be initiated for lack of funding.

65. The project's contribution to its long-term objective of Africa's economic cooperation and integration would be evident when the multisectoral projects of the various subregional economic groupings are fully implemented and the results requiring further investment follow-up are fully realized.

2. Multisectoral projects

66. UNDP made funds available for the implementation of three multisectoral projects executed by ECA. The aim of the multisectoral approach was to enable the policy makers to have an overall view of the necessary linkages among the various sectors as well as to ensure that priority sectors were evenly covered.

social development, international trade and natural resource and environmental management in both intraregional and interregional terms;

(c) ECA: Subprogramme 2 4/ entitled "Trade, regional economic cooperation and integration" of programme 30 has the following objectives: (i) to strengthen the capacity of African intergovernmental organizations as effective instruments of self-sustaining and self-reliant development; to assist African countries and their intergovernmental organizations in the identification and implementation of integration projects; to promote South-South cooperation to enhance economic cooperation and integration in Africa; to advance proposals for the harmonization and rationalization of the integration activities of the various intergovernmental organizations; and to review and appraise periodically the integration activities planned and undertaken by intergovernmental organizations; (ii) to strengthen sectoral integration at subregional and regional levels in the fields of transport and communications, energy, industry, agriculture, trade, finance and money, human resources, science and technology; (iii) to enhance the coordination and harmonization of national policies in order to promote common policies, particularly in the fields of agriculture, industry, transport and communications, energy, natural resources, trade, money and finance, human resources, science and technology; (iv) to strengthen existing institutional machinery for cooperation and consultation with a view to increasing the exchange of information on development financing and investment; (v) to enhance Africa's trade sector through the adoption of appropriate measures, policies and strategies for the expansion of domestic, regional and external trade; (vi) to strengthen existing institutions for subregional trade cooperation by making them more operational and responsive to Africa's trade requirements and help harmonize their negotiating positions in all international conferences on trade; (vii) to promote the establishment of subregional and regional payment arrangements, clearing-houses and banking institutions, where appropriate, but in particular, work towards the establishment of the African monetary fund and the African payments union; (viii) to promote the cooperation and harmonization of rational integration of tourism resources and potential to programmes related to the development of trade and tourism; (ix) to strengthen regional cooperation in tourism, through the establishment of inter-State circuits and machineries, joint promotion of tourism and a multinational vocation training system; and (x) to assist African countries in acquiring an increased level of necessary expertise in the field of tourism;

(d) ESCAP: Subprogramme 1 5/ entitled "Regional economic cooperation" of programme 31 embodies activities for the promotion of economic integration and similar elements are also in the various sectoral subprogrammes of the Commission.

3. Although the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has no specific subprogramme on economic integration, economic integration issues are dealt with through the Commission's involvement with such regional organizations as the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation and AGFUND and through the sectoral components of programme 34 entitled "Regional cooperation for development in Western Asia".

4. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has not addressed resolution 46/145. The particularities of the region and progress made in regional economic

integration in the area may justify the Commission's option to focus on sectoral cooperation and trade facilitation as appropriate.

III. REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

5. Specific programmes on economic integration have been included in budget sections for UNCTAD, ECA and ECLAC (see A/48/6 (sects. 11A, 15A and 18), respectively).

6. ESCAP, ECE and ESCWA (ibid., sects. 16, 17 and 19, respectively) have maintained their option to reflect economic integration activities in their various subprogrammes dealing with sectoral issues and in thematic of economic Cooperation subprogrammes.

7. Although formal coordination could not take place in drafting the 1994-1995 programme budgets for UNCTAD and the regional commissions, the specific mandates and geographic distribution of these institutions have provided an appropriate framework which helps avoid duplication of programmes. The interregional thrust of UNCTAD differentiates its programmes from those of the regional commissions. UNCTAD activities in fostering regional integration are mostly in cooperation with the regional commissions and for technical inputs into regional programmes are executed by the commissions in favour of regional groupings. UNCTAD activities in Africa, for example, have been carried out in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) under ECA-executed multisectoral projects and in close collaboration with the latter. As regional commissions move towards their new role of regional coordinators of United Nations activities, this pattern is likely to prevail.

IV. JOINT UNCTAD/REGIONAL COMMISSIONS UNDERTAKINGS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

8. In Africa, UNCTAD and ECA, along with United Nations specialized agencies, have jointly carried out multisectoral projects for the promotion of economic integration in West and Central Africa.

9. In Asia, UNCTAD was associated with a project to assist member States of the Bangkok Agreement for the development of intraregional trade and the establishment of a regional investment information and promotion service. This was done in close cooperation with ESCAP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as UNCTAD cooperation with ESCAP in their assistance to the Asian Clearing Union.

10. Joint programming, identification, preparation and implementation of projects should take place between UNCTAD and each of the regional commissions. The multisectoral project experience between ECA, UNCTAD and various other specialized agencies helped achieve this in Africa with respect to two UNDP-financed projects for ECOWAS and ECCAS. This and similar mechanisms should be used henceforth to enhance coordination between UNCTAD and the regional

Gulf War, including the annual survey of economic and social developments in the ESCWA region; analytical reviews of development trends and issues in the external sector and money and finance; a comprehensive study analysing the overall and sectoral impact of the Gulf crisis and war on economic cooperation with other developing countries in the region; and a study on financial resources availability and management in Western Asia.

81. In the energy field, ESCWA actively participated in the UNDP sponsored seminar on domestic energy policies and management in the Arab countries in October 1992. The seminar adopted recommendations that aimed mainly at improving the efficiency of energy use, promoting the development of conventional, as well as renewable, energy resources, and strengthening regional cooperation. An interregional symposium on gas development and market prospects by the year 2000 and beyond was jointly sponsored and organized by ESCWA and UNDP. The Symposium adopted a set of recommendations for the development of natural gas projects and the expansion of its use and trade within the framework of regional and interregional cooperation. Moreover, the subprogramme on energy completed a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action in the ESCWA region. The report included, inter alia, a review and assessment of activities undertaken, a subregional and regional cooperation for the implementation of joint renewable energy projects and the expansion of ESCWA regional information network on new and renewable energy sources.

82. Several activities were initiated towards the promotion of regional cooperation in the field of water resources. ESCWA prepared a preliminary document entitled "Water and Peace in the Middle East" reflecting ESCWA's views on the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and their implications for the region in the water sector. ESCWA participated in the Fifth Meeting of the Arab Committee for the International Hydrological Programme, in which most ESCWA countries were represented. ESCWA representative presented a paper describing ESCWA's role in the water sector in the region and emphasizing the importance of coordination and cooperation in specific areas related to water resources.

83. As a follow-up to ESCWA regional preparatory Conference to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Commission in its resolution 180 (XVI) of 2 September 1992 called for the establishment of an Arab and international inter-agency coordinating committee on environment and development for the purpose of promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development and for implementing Agenda 21. The efforts of ESCWA to identify country-specific and regional environmental problems in order to develop appropriate policy strategies, methodologies and safeguards for promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development is reflected in preparatory work to convene in 1993 several technical workshops including one entitled "Regional Workshop on Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level in the Arab World" and another entitled "Symposium on Cleaner Technology Applications in Developing Countries".

84. In the domain of food and agriculture, ESCWA continued to disseminate information through the issuance of its annual publication "Agriculture and Development in Western Asia". Action was also initiated towards the preparation of a national plan of action to combat desertification in the United Arab Emirates and the formulation of two desertification control projects in the

Republic of Yemen and Oman. Preparation for holding an ad hoc expert group meeting of rural development at the ESCWA regional level, has been going on by undertaking different studies on the subject at the national level. Two country studies, seven papers and one regional study were prepared. The meeting is to be held in Amman in October 1993. Furthermore, in emphasizing capacity-building in Western Asia, the Joint ESCWA/FAO Division held several training workshops during the reporting period. These workshops and seminars included some on training on the use of computers in agricultural policy analysis, farm management surveys, data processing and project planning, and others on agricultural marketing at the regional and international levels.

85. With respect to the industrial sector, ESCWA organized a regional seminar on "Motivation, Orientation and Training Techniques for Enhancing Industrial Entrepreneurship in the ESCWA Region", and an expert group meeting on "Interconnection Technologies for Electronics in the Arab Countries". Various studies were undertaken in the areas pertaining to strengthening the functioning of the industrial training institutions in the ESCWA region; promotion of entrepreneurship in small-scale industry; and the review and assessment of recent developments in the manufacturing sector in the ESCWA region.

86. In the field of science and technology, a workshop on the "Implications of New and Advanced Materials Technologies for Economies of the ESCWA Countries" was organized by ESCWA jointly with UNIDO's New Technology and the Arab Region Programme. The science and technology programme in ESCWA has responded to the enhanced interest in environmental affairs, and to the wide scope for applying science and technology in activities aimed at protecting the environment by making preparations for future activities directly dealing with the application of science and technology to promote the protection of the region's environment and the introduction/development of environmentally sound technologies. This is partly manifested by the series of activities on ozone-depleting substances and the utilization of space technology for monitoring desert environments.

87. The activities of the transport and communication programme aiming at strengthening regional cooperation and development in the field of transport have focused on three main issues: (i) impact of the privatization and deregulation aspects and subsidy policies in the transport sector, (ii) manpower policies and training for transport operations, and (iii) maritime transport problems. In addition to the annual issue of the ESCWA Transport Bulletin, four publications pertaining to developments in the field of transport in the ESCWA region were completed. These publications focused on the privatization and deregulation of selected transport modes, subsidies in the transport sector, pricing policies of port services and the training needs of transport authorities in Western Asia. Furthermore, ESCWA organized a seminar on modern pricing policies for ports in the ESCWA region and an Expert Group Meeting on training requirements in the transport sector.

88. Within its activity on regional cooperation, the statistics programme participated in a number of technical and policy-oriented meetings. This included participation in the Second Arab Conference on National Accounts, the Statistical Committee on the Council for Arab Economic Unity, the Statistical Standing Committee on the League of Arab States, the Board of Directors of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, and the Regional Seminar for Senior Statisticians in Household Surveys. At the international level,

ESCWA also participated in the interregional seminar on the revision of the United Nations System of National Accounts, the meeting of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, and other inter-secretariat working groups and meetings held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. With regard to the dissemination of statistical information, the statistics programme published in 1992 editions of the Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region, the Bulletin of National Accounts and the External Trade Bulletin.

89. Under the social development and population programme, ESCWA organized the Cultural Event of Disabled Persons in the ESCWA Region, which included substantive sessions, assessment and evaluation of the World Programme of Action for Disabled Persons at the end of the decade in the ESCWA region and the formulation of a regional long-term strategy. Four technical publications on national policies for crime prevention; review of national policies of drug abuse control; the situation of marginalized youth groups in the region; and adaptation and transfer of new technologies for disabled persons in the region were published. The Commission also participated in organizing, and co-sponsoring with the Islamic Development Bank, a symposium on low-cost housing in the Arab region, which called for the intensification of efforts to exchange information and experiences and to coordinate policies and programmes with a view to alleviating the problems of housing in the region. In addition, preparatory work for undertaking two Expert Group Meetings on "Unemployment in the Arab World" and "Human Development" was initiated.

90. Under the women and development subprogramme, the commission completed five case studies on participation of women in the food and textiles industries in five member States. Also, executive summaries of nine studies on participation of women in development were issued in Arabic and English for the benefit of other United Nations bodies and funding organizations. ESCWA continued to support technical assistance activities for the development of women in the region, and has also undertaken various activities which would be used as major inputs in the regional preparatory meeting for the International Year of the Family due to be held in Amman in November 1993.

91. The technical cooperation subprogramme, in its endeavour to promote and strengthen regional cooperation, has through the regional advisory services assisted member States in strengthening national and regional institutions in the following areas: data processing, energy, environment, human resources development, industrial development, national accounts and economic statistics, development planning, science and technology, transport and communications, and water resources development.

92. During the reporting period, ESCWA intensified its cooperation and coordination of activities with other regional and international organizations and Arab institutions active in the region with a view to avoiding duplication of work and to ensure the optimum use of limited resources.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

93. In response to General Assembly resolution 46/145 on regional economic integration, UNCTAD and most of the regional commissions have included in their revised medium-term plans (1992-1997) specific programmes and/or sectoral

activities for the promotion of regional economic integration. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 before the General Assembly reflects those programmes and activities.

94. UNCTAD and the regional commissions have embarked on various activities for the promotion of economic cooperation and integration.

95. Effective coordination between UNCTAD and the regional commissions has taken place in a few regions in the framework of sectoral and multisectoral extrabudgetary projects. This should continue and formal mechanisms should be devised to this effect.

96. The efforts of UNCTAD and the regional commissions in preparing, formulating and implementing joint projects for the promotion of regional economic integration could help avoid duplication and mobilize the required extrabudgetary resources.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.

2/ Ibid., vol. I, paras. 13.68-13.72.

3/ Ibid., vol. II, paras. 33.97-33.101.

4/ Ibid., paras. 30.29-30.42.

5/ Ibid., paras. 31.15-31.23.

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FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 43/90 of 9 December 1988, entitled "Fortieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", reaffirmed, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary, the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a source of inspiration for national and international efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and took note with satisfaction of the progress made so far in the field of human rights, including standard-setting and codification since the proclamation of the Declaration. The Assembly also reaffirmed its commitment to further progress in this respect. It expressed grave concern, too, at mass and flagrant violations of human rights and affirmed the responsibility of the United Nations in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as its determination to deal, through appropriate United Nations bodies, with violations of those rights and freedoms.

2. The General Assembly invited the Commission on Human Rights to consider a programme of action in the field of human rights, including:

(a) Measures to promote the universal ratification of or accession to United Nations instruments in the field of human rights and to strengthen United Nations machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Declaration;

(b) Activities to develop human rights institutions and infrastructures drawing upon the assistance of the United Nations Programme for Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights, including the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, and drawing also upon the relevant capabilities of the specialized agencies in this field, and other available multilateral and bilateral assistance; and

(c) Activities in the area of public information and measures to enhance national and existing regional institutions for the promotion of human rights, through appropriate educational, judicial, legal and other channels, including direct contact among them.

3. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-eighth session a report on the activities undertaken in pursuance of that resolution. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request. Since the universal ratification of or accession to United Nations instruments in the field of human rights is promoted mainly through activities implemented under the public information and technical assistance programmes of the United Nations, the information requested thereon by General Assembly resolution 43/90 is to be found in chapters III and IV of the report.

II. STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MACHINERY FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

4. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 43/90 of 9 December 1988, new mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights have been established within the United Nations. While some of them have been entrusted to existing United Nations bodies whose mandates have been consequently enlarged, others have necessitated the creation of new bodies. Measures have also been taken to improve the effectiveness of existing mechanisms. Finally, new instruments covering various human rights aspects have been adopted and others are in the process of being drafted. All these developments have contributed to the strengthening of the United Nations machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

A. New mechanisms

1. Treaty bodies

5. Since 1988, two new bodies have been established on the basis of two international human rights treaties to ensure better protection of the rights already recognized by the Universal Declaration: the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Both Committees have the mandate to monitor the observance and implementation by the States Parties of the rights guaranteed in those treaties.

6. The Committee against Torture was established pursuant to article 17 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which was adopted on 10 December 1984 by the General Assembly of the United Nations and which entered into force on 26 June 1987. The Committee began to function on 1 January 1988. It consists of 10 experts of high moral standing and recognized competence in the field of human rights.

7. The Committee is entrusted with the specific supervision of a multilateral instrument for protection against torture and other inhuman treatment, as defined in article 1 of the Convention. The Committee examines periodic reports submitted by States Parties on the measures taken to give effect to their obligations under the Convention. With respect to those States that have recognized its competence in this regard, the Committee may also receive and consider inter-State and individual complaints. Another competence that can be exercised by the Committee, if the State Party concerned has recognized it, is the investigation of situations in which torture is allegedly being systematically practised in the territory of the State or States Parties.

8. The Committee, which holds two regular sessions each year, met for the first time in Geneva in April 1988.

9. By the end of September 1993, there were 77 States Parties to the Convention, 35 of which had accepted the competence of the Committee to consider matters relating to inter-State disputes; 34 had accepted its competence to consider communications from or on behalf of individuals. Seven States Parties

have declared that they did not recognize the competence of the Committee to undertake confidential inquiries or fact-finding missions on their territories.

10. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was established in 1991, pursuant to article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted on 20 November 1989 by the General Assembly and which entered into force on 2 September 1990. It consists of 10 experts of high moral standing and recognized competence in the field covered by the Convention. The Committee carries out functions relating to the implementation of the Convention. It examines reports submitted to it by States Parties on the measures they have adopted to give effect to the rights recognized in the Convention and on the progress made on the enjoyment of those rights. The Committee, which meets twice each year, held its first session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 30 September to 18 October 1991. At the time this report was prepared, there were 145 States Parties to this Convention.

2. Special procedures

11. At its forty-seventh session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1991/42, entitled "Question of arbitrary detention", by which it decided to create, for a three-year period, a Working Group composed of five independent experts, with the tasks of:

(a) Investigating cases of detention imposed arbitrarily or otherwise inconsistently with the relevant international standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or in the relevant international legal instruments accepted by the States concerned;

(b) Seeking and receiving information from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and receiving information from the individuals concerned, their families or their representatives;

(c) Reporting to the Commission about its findings and activities.

The Economic and Social Council, by its decision 1991/243 of 31 May 1991, approved the Commission's decision contained in its resolution 1991/42. The Working Group held its first session in Geneva from 16 to 20 September 1991. On that occasion, it adopted its methods of work, including the principles applicable in the consideration of cases submitted to it and a model questionnaire to be completed by persons alleging arbitrary detention.

12. The Working Group receives communications from concerned individuals or their families or representatives, as well as from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It can decide to transmit these communications to Governments, which are asked to reply by the deadline set by the Working Group and to provide further information on the case. The Working Group can also resort to the procedure known as "urgent action", which applies:

(a) In cases in which there are sufficiently reliable allegations that a person is being detained arbitrarily and that the continuation of the detention constitutes a serious danger to that person's health or life;

(b) In other cases, where the detention may not constitute a danger to a person's health or life, but where the particular circumstances of the situation warrant urgent action. In such cases, the communications can also be transmitted to Governments between the Working Group's sessions.

13. In the light of the information received on a case, the Working Group can take one of the following decisions:

(a) If the persons has been released, the case is filed;

(b) If the Working Group determines that it is established that the case is not one of arbitrary detention, the case is also filed;

(c) If the Working Group decides that it does not have enough information to take a decision, the case remains pending for further investigation;

(d) If the Working Group decides that the arbitrary nature of the detention is established, it shall make recommendations to the Government concerned.

14. Since the beginning of its activities, the Working Group, which meets three times a year, has sent 100 communications to 57 Governments; 44 replies were received. The Working Group also transmitted 25 cases by means of the urgent action procedure to 20 Governments. At the time this report was prepared, the Working Group was awaiting replies to 18 communications, for which the 90-day time-limit had not yet expired.

15. Since 1988, a number of new Special Rapporteurs, both subject- and country-oriented, were appointed by the Commission on Human Rights.

Thematic rapporteurs

16. All the thematic rapporteurs specified below submit to the Commission an annual report that covers their activities and findings and includes conclusions and recommendations on how to promote and protect better the specific human rights covered by their respective mandates.

17. In 1990, the Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 1990/68, decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur to consider matters relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including the problem of the adoption of children for commercial purposes.

18. In 1993, the Commission appointed two additional Special Rapporteurs. By its resolution 1993/45, a Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression was appointed for a period of three years. The task of the Special Rapporteur is to gather all relevant information, wherever they may occur, of cases of discrimination against persons seeking to exercise or to promote the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression as affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and, where applicable, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Such cases entail, inter alia, threats or use of violence and harassment, including persecution and intimidation. As a matter of high priority, the

Special Rapporteur is mandated to concentrate on professionals in the field of information.

19. By its resolution 1993/20, the Commission appointed, for a term of three years, a Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance. The Rapporteur will report thereon to the Commission annually, starting in 1994.

20. Functions similar to those of the Special Rapporteurs mentioned above were given, in 1992, to a representative of the Secretary-General. By its resolution 1992/73, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to designate a representative to seek views and information from all Governments on the human rights issues related to internally displaced persons, including an examination of existing international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law standards and their applicability to the protection of internally displaced persons and relief assistance to them. The mandate of the representative of the Secretary-General was renewed in 1993, at the request of the Commission, for a period of two years, to allow him to continue his work and to identify ways and means of improving protection for internally displaced persons and assistance to them. The representative of the Secretary-General is requested to submit annual reports on his activities to the Commission and to the General Assembly.

Country-oriented rapporteurs

21. New Special Rapporteurs charged with monitoring the human rights situation of specific countries were also appointed during the period covered by the present report. The country-oriented rapporteurs specified below report to both the Commission on Human Rights and to the General Assembly.

22. In 1989, the Commission, by its resolution 1989/75, decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur to examine the human rights situation in Romania and report thereon. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur was extended until the forty-eighth session of the Commission in 1992.

23. In 1991, the Commission, by its resolution 1991/68, requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to maintain direct contact with the Government and citizens of Cuba on the human rights issues raised by a 1988 mission of the Commission. At its following session, the Commission decided to designate the Special Representative of the Secretary-General as its Special Rapporteur to review and report on the situation of human rights in Cuba.

24. Also in 1991, the Commission decided, by its resolution 1991/74, to appoint a Special Rapporteur to make a thorough study of the violations of human rights by the Government of Iraq and report thereon to the General Assembly and the Commission. Since the beginning of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur has presented two reports to the Commission and two to the General Assembly. He also addressed the Security Council on the situation of human rights in the southern marshes of Iraq in August 1992. In resolution 1993/74 of 10 March 1993, the Commission welcomed the proposal of the Special Rapporteur to deploy a team of human rights monitors to Iraq and asked the Secretary-General to provide funds for this purpose.

(a) Assistance to ECOWAS

67. Unlike the case in Central Africa, a clear allotment of responsibilities among the West African IGOs within the multisectoral project concept had not been established. However, in the design and the implementation of the ECOWAS project, full account was taken of the interests and involvement of the two sub-groupings, namely, CEAO and the Mano River Union.

68. In terms of major activities, the project is helping to design viable development programmes in the key sectors of agriculture, industry and transport and communications, among which are the following:

(a) A food security programme embracing vital elements such as pricing policies, storage facilities, livestock development, and water resources utilization and management;

(b) A master plan for the rehabilitation of existing industrial plants as well as the creation of new ones on the basis of their proven viability;

(c) A multi-modal transport programme aimed at improving interconnections between land-locked countries and the coastal fringes and thus help alleviate the peculiar transport and transshipment problems of the countries in the hinterland;

(d) A programme for the interconnection of electric grids as well as the development of hydroelectric power.

69. In addition to the above, studies are being carried out on monetary cooperation among countries of the subregion and on a trade liberalization scheme.

70. When fully completed, the results of the project are intended to be used by the policy organs of ECOWAS as important inputs in the design, formulation and implementation of common development policies and strategies in the priority sectors as well as in investment decisions.

(b) Assistance to ECCAS

71. This project was similar to the ECOWAS project, taking into account the peculiar interests and concerns of the subregion including the issue of coordination and harmonization of activities of IGOs in the subregion.

72. In terms of major result, an industrial master plan for the entire subregion has been finalized. Activities under way include the design of a food security programme and a trade liberalization scheme. The project's end results will also be utilized by the policy makers of ECCAS as in the case of the ECOWAS project.

(c) Assistance to UDEAC

73. In accordance with the understanding reached among UDEAC, CEPGL and ECCAS, this project was designed in harmony with activities being implemented by the

latter two groupings, particularly ECCAS, to avoid contradictory objectives and minimize unnecessary duplication of activities.

74. In the field of industry, prefeasibility and feasibility studies are under way for the creation of community enterprises with target markets embracing only the UDEAC countries or extended to include Zaire. The agricultural component is an integral part of the ECCAS food security programme.

75. As regards the transport sector, the project has conducted a study on the development of coastal shipping in the light of the fact that coastal shipping is of interest only to UDEAC and Zaire.

76. In summary, the three multisectoral projects will contribute to the economic integration objectives of the three beneficiary organizations through the resulting coherent programmes with desirable intersectoral linkages. Nevertheless, follow-up actions aimed at concretizing the implementation of those programmes on the ground, will be necessary with continued UNDP funding during the Fifth Programming Cycle (1992-1996).

3. UNDP Fifth Programming Cycle

77. Economic integration projects of the dimension being implemented have a long gestation in terms of the full realization of the desired impact on the subregional and regional integration process of the African continent. It is not, therefore, expected that they will produce spontaneous effects within a period of four to five years. For this reason, ECA will continue to assist ECCAS, ECOWAS and UDEAC in all aspects related to the formulation of programmes and projects for the UNDP Fifth Cycle, and indeed in the eventual implementation of those activities when UNDP funding is secured.

78. Finally, ECA intends to undertake operational activities related to the recently promulgated treaty establishing the African Economic Community after full ratification by the African countries. Such activities may call for opening new vistas of interregional cooperation between Africa and other developing regions.

E. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

79. The ESCWA region is gradually recovering from the devastating effects of the Gulf War and its aftermath. Overall regional economic performance improved significantly in 1992. This is reflected in higher aggregate output and per capita income levels; marked improvement in the internal and external balance situation; and reduced inflationary pressures. Reconstruction and implementation of structural adjustment policies were the main themes of development in many countries of Western Asia during the past year. Below are some of the main activities undertaken by ESCWA in its endeavour to promote regional cooperation in Western Asia during the reporting period.

80. Under the development planning programme, several studies and reports, addressing differing aspects of regional cooperation and integration, were undertaken with emphasis on the state of the regional economy in the wake of the

35. By its resolution 44/128 of 15 December 1989, the General Assembly adopted the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. States Parties to the Covenant that ratify the Second Optional Protocol accept responsibility for not applying capital punishment within their jurisdiction and taking all measures to abolish it. This results in an extension of the competence of the Human Rights Committee in three regards. First, the States Parties to the Second Optional Protocol undertake to include in the reports they submit to the Human Rights Committee, in accordance with article 40 of the Covenant, information on the measures that they have adopted to give effect to the Protocol. Further, the competence of the Human Rights Committee to receive and consider inter-State communications, for those States Parties that have accepted it, and individual communications, with respect to those States that have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Covenant, is extended to the provisions of the Second Optional Protocol. However, States Parties can make a statement declaring that they do not accept such competence at the moment of their ratification or accession.

36. A prompt intervention procedure to protect persons cooperating with United Nations bodies has been adopted by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

37. At its forty-sixth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1990/76, entitled "Cooperation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies". In this resolution, the Commission recalled that private individuals and groups should feel free to avail themselves, without fear of intimidation or reprisal, of the various procedures established by the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities or by various human rights instruments for drawing attention to alleged violations of human rights. It expressed concern about cases reported to United Nations organs by private individuals and groups who, before or after cooperating with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies or treaty bodies, have been subjected to harassment, ill-treatment and detention or imprisonment or other forms of hardship, as well as about reports from relatives or those dear to such individuals who have themselves been subjected to similar treatment. It also expressed concern about reports indicating that relatives of disappeared persons, when seeking to clarify the fate or whereabouts of the victims through the appropriate channels, have frequently been subjected to reprisals, as have the organizations to which they belong.

38. By the same resolution, the Commission called upon all Governments receiving representatives of United Nations human rights bodies to provide effective advance information to them, to allow unhampered contacts between private individuals and such representatives and to remove all legal and practical obstacles that would unduly prevent or discourage such contacts from taking place. It condemned all acts of intimidation or reprisal, in whatever form, against private individuals and groups who seek to cooperate with the United Nations and representatives of its human rights bodies, or who have sought to avail themselves of procedures established under United Nations auspices for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It further requested the representatives of United Nations human rights bodies reporting on violations of human rights to the Commission or the Subcommission,

in the exercise of their respective mandates, to take urgent steps, in conformity with their mandates, to help prevent the occurrence of intimidation or reprisals and to devote special attention to this question in their respective reports to the Commission or the Subcommission. The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its forty-seventh session any available information, from all appropriate sources, on reprisals against witnesses or victims of human rights violations.

39. Special procedures and mechanisms of the Commission to which its resolution 1990/75 is addressed have generally dealt with cases of alleged intimidation or reprisals under their established methods of work, including the urgent action procedure applied by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Special Rapporteurs on summary or arbitrary executions and torture. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has adapted its regular urgent action procedure for such cases by formulating a specific provision in its methods of work enabling it to intervene promptly whenever seized of incidents of that nature. The Group stated in paragraph 26 of its latest report: 1/

> "In compliance with the request the Commission on Human Rights made in its resolution 1990/76, the Working Group, at its thirtieth session, decided to transmit to Governments concerned, by means of a cable from the Chairman to the respective Ministers of Foreign Affairs, any reports of intimidation, persecution or reprisals affecting such private individuals or groups mentioned in the resolution as requiring prompt intervention, with the appeal that Governments take immediate steps to protect all fundamental rights of the person affected. The Working Group authorized its Chairman to decide, between sessions, which of the cases received contained the elements required by the text of the resolution. The Group considered that cases affecting relatives of missing persons, witnesses to disappearances and their families, members of relatives' organizations as well as other non-governmental organizations and its members persecuted or threatened as a reprisal for their activities on behalf of victims of disappearances or for their efforts to eliminate such practice, should be given priority attention by the Working Group, in accordance with the terms of resolution 1990/76."

C. Improvement of existing mechanisms

40. Several measures/initiatives have been undertaken by the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission during the period covered by this report to improve the effectiveness of existing mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. The World Conference on Human Rights also recommended continued work on the improvement of the functioning of the treaty bodies, including their monitoring tasks, taking into account the multiple proposals made in this respect, in particular those made by the treaty bodies themselves and by the meetings of the chairpersons of the treaty bodies.

1. Protection of United Nations staff members and independent experts

41. By its resolution 1988/9, the Subcommission appointed a Special Rapporteur to carry out a study on the protection of the human rights of United Nations staff members, experts and their families and report thereon. The Special Rapporteur presented her final report to the Subcommission at its forty-fourth session. This included a detailed set of recommendations for measures on how to improve, on a long-term basis, the protection of personnel of the United Nations system and their families, as well as experts and consultants. By its resolution 1993/39, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to take steps aimed at ensuring without delay the application of all recommendations contained in that report.

42. At its forty-seventh session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1991/33 entitled "Status of special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts, members of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and members of working groups established by the Commission on Human Rights". The Commission stressed the need for experts on mission for the United Nations, in order to exercise their functions in a fully independent manner, to enjoy the necessary privileges and immunities contained in the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations. It then requested the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure that all special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts, members of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and members of working groups established by the Commission on Human Rights be considered "experts on mission" in the context of this Convention.

43. It also requested him to take the necessary measures to ensure the prescribed protection of officials of the United Nations Secretariat accompanying special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts, members of the Subcommission and working groups established by the Commission on field missions. At the Commission's forty-eighth session in 1992 the Secretary-General presented his report on the measures taken to implement this resolution. 2/ The Commission subsequently adopted resolution 1993/39, mentioned in paragraph 40 above, requesting the existing human rights mechanisms, including the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, to examine, as appropriate, the cases involving the human rights of staff members of the United Nations system and their families, as well as experts, special rapporteurs and consultants, and to transmit the relevant parts of their reports to the Secretary-General for inclusion in his report to the Commission.

2. Treaty bodies

44. By its resolution 1989/47, entitled "Effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments", the Commission had requested the Secretary-General to entrust an independent expert with the task of preparing a study on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of existing and future bodies established under United

Nations human rights instruments. The study was presented to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session and to the Commission at its forty-sixth. By its resolution 1993/16, the Commission requested that this report be updated for submission to the Commission at its fiftieth session.

45. In its resolution 1989/46, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to consider appointing a task force composed of experts to prepare a study on computerizing the work of the treaty monitoring bodies in relation to reporting, with a view to increasing efficiency and facilitating compliance by States Parties with their reporting obligations and the examination of reports by the treaty bodies. The Task Force on Computerization was appointed by the Secretary-General in 1989 and presented its report 3/ to the Commission at its forty-sixth session. The recommendations contained in the report were endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 45/85 of 14 December 1990. On different occasions, in 1991, 1992 and 1993, the Commission has urged the Secretary-General to expedite the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force as soon as possible by requesting Member States, in particular States that are Parties to various human rights instruments, to make generous voluntary contributions to cover the initial one-time cost of the proposed system. 4/

46. Since 1988 four meetings of the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies have been held. These meetings issued recommendations aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures that were endorsed by the Commission. In 1992, by its resolution 1992/15, the Commission endorsed the recommendation of the third meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to institutionalize their meetings and requested the General Assembly to take appropriate action to enable these meetings to be held on a biennial basis.

3. Meetings of Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups

47. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 1993/47 entitled "Human rights and thematic procedures", in which it requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of convening a meeting of all the thematic special rapporteurs and the Chairmen of working groups of the Commission in order to enable an exchange of views and closer cooperation and to issue their conclusions and recommendations annually.

48. On the occasion of the World Conference on Human Rights, the special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and members or chairmen of working groups of the Commission on Human Rights met from 14 to 16 June 1993 and adopted a Joint Declaration. 5/ The Declaration was presented by Mr. B. W. Ndiaye, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, to the World Conference at its 10th plenary meeting on 17 June 1993. The recommendations made include the following:

(a) Procedures and mechanisms should be established for reasonable periods of time, not suffer delays in their approval by competent bodies, include field missions as a natural component and, as necessary, obtain the support of field monitors. In all cases, missions should be appropriately followed up.

(b) Special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and members and chairmen of working groups should be enabled to harmonize their work through periodic meetings, joint examination of thematic reports and, as appropriate, joint missions.

(c) The work of the special procedures should benefit from access to information available at United Nations offices throughout the world and their reports should be taken into account by United Nations bodies, including, as appropriate, the Security Council. Similarly, reports should be widely publicized and disseminated.

(d) To achieve the above and support the effective work of the procedures and mechanisms, human and material resources must be raised to a level commensurate with the responsibilities carried by each procedure. Sufficiently flexible administrative procedures must also be devised so as to allow for maximum efficiency, especially in urgent situations.

4. Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights

49. Since 1989, the Commission on Human Rights has had on its agenda the question of the strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights as a coordinating unit in the system of United Nations bodies dealing with the promotion and protection of human rights.

50. At its forty-seventh session, the Commission adopted resolution 1991/23, in which it reiterated its concern that programme and resource proposals for long-term solutions responding to the needs of the Centre and commensurate with its workload should be included in the outline of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on developments relating to the Centre to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. In the report submitted in response to this request, the Secretary-General stressed the dramatic increase that had taken place in all areas of the Centre's activities. At the subsequent request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General presented a further interim report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session and a final report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Based on the Secretary-General's proposals, the General Assembly approved an 8.7 per cent increase in the regular budget of the Centre for the biennium 1992-1993.

51. Noting that the Centre for Human Rights had been requested by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council to carry out additional mandates after the preparation of the budget for the biennium 1992-1993, the Commission emphasized in its resolution 1992/53 that adequate staffing and resources should be allocated to the Centre so as to enable it to respond to its increasing workload and to cover its needs in order to carry out all the functions assigned to it, including all the mandates and the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights. It also requested the Secretary-General, when preparing the budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995, to ensure that adequate resources were projected for human rights, in particular for the Centre. This request was reiterated in resolution 1993/52.

52. Most recently, in the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action, the World Conference on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to take immediate steps to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations, and to take urgent steps to seek increased extrabudgetary resources.

D. Mechanisms under consideration by the Commission on Human Rights

53. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1992/55, took note of a proposal for the establishment of an emergency mechanism that would allow the Commission to react without delay, and in an appropriate manner, to acute situations arising from gross violations of human rights. Consideration of the proposed mechanism was resumed at its forty-ninth session, and then further postponed.

E. New instruments and studies

54. Standard-setting in the field of human rights has continued in the period covered by this report.

55. On 20 November 1989, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the result of a decade of work of an open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights. While bringing together the rights of the child recognized in many international treaties and declarations adopted within the United Nations system, the Convention adds a number of areas to existing legal international standards and practices. It encompasses the whole range of human rights - civil, political, economic, social and cultural - and states that the child is entitled to enjoy these rights without discrimination of any kind. As indicated in paragraph 10 above, the Convention provides for the establishment of a Committee responsible for monitoring the progress made by the States Parties in the implementation of the provisions of this instrument.

56. As indicated in paragraph 35 above, another new instrument is the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, which was adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 44/128 of 15 December 1989. The text of a draft Protocol had been elaborated, at the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 37/92 of 18 December 1982, within the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

57. By its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, the General Assembly also adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which has not yet entered into force. While confirming that migrant workers and members of their families, as defined in the text, are entitled to all fundamental civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, the Convention further sets out a series of rights of specific concern for these persons. These include the right not to be subject to measures of collective expulsion; to have recourse to the protection and assistance of the consular or diplomatic authorities of their State of

origin; and to enjoy treatment not less favourable than that which applies to nationals of the State in which they are employed in respect of remuneration and social security. The Convention also provides for the establishment of a Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families with the task of reviewing the application of the Convention through the examination of periodic reports submitted by States Parties. States Parties can also accept the competence of the Committee to receive and consider inter-State complaints and individual communications.

58. The Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992. The text was first elaborated by the Working Group on Detention of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and then considered by an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights. By its resolution 1992/29, the Commission approved the text of the draft Declaration and transmitted it to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council. The Declaration defines any act of enforced disappearance as an offence to human dignity and condemns it as a grave and flagrant violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It declares that each State shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent and terminate acts of enforced disappearance in any territory under its jurisdiction and sets other standards aiming at avoiding the perpetration of acts of enforced disappearance in all circumstances and declaring the international responsibility of States that organize, acquiesce in or tolerate such acts.

59. The Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992. The draft text, elaborated by an informal open-ended working group created in 1978 by the Commission with the specific task of elaborating the Declaration, was approved by the Commission in its resolution 1992/16, transmitted to the Economic and Social Council and subsequently recommended to the General Assembly for adoption. Inspired by the provisions of article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Declaration sets out a series of rights recognized as belonging to persons who are members of minorities: the rights to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, to use their mother tongue, to participate effectively in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life, to participate in national or regional decisions concerning the minority to which they belong, the right to association and the right to establish contacts with other members of their group or with persons belonging to other minorities, as well as contacts across frontiers with citizens of other States to whom they are related by national or ethnic, religious or linguistic ties. The Declaration also contains provisions concerning the responsibility of States to protect the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities within their territories and to adopt appropriate legislative and other measures to achieve those ends.

Instruments being drafted

60. The following instruments are still in the process of being drafted by several working groups established for this purpose by the Commission on Human Rights and by the Subcommission:

(a) The draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) The draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

The Working Group established by the Commission in 1992 is using as a basis a draft presented by the Government of Costa Rica that proposes a mechanism that aims at establishing a preventive system of regular visits to places of detention;

(c) The draft declaration on indigenous rights.

The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in its resolution 1985/22 of 29 August 1985, endorsed the decision of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to emphasize standard-setting activities, with the aim of producing a draft declaration on indigenous rights that might be proclaimed by the General Assembly. Revised working papers of the text of the draft declaration have been prepared by the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group.

61. A document that does not have yet the status of international instrument but that should be mentioned in this report is the Principles relating to the status of national institutions (so renamed by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1992/45). These were elaborated by the first International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, held in Paris from 7 to 9 October 1991. The Workshop was organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights under the Programme of Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights implemented by the Centre. It was held pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/64 of 8 December 1989 and resolutions 1990/73 and 1991/27 of the Commission on Human Rights. These draft Principles contain a set of guidelines on the structure and role of national institutions, which the Commission endorsed at its forty-eighth session, and provides States with a frame of reference for the development or reform of their own infrastructure for promoting and protecting human rights. By its resolution 1993/45, the Commission decided to transmit the Principles through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly for adoption.

New studies, reports and working papers

62. A number of new studies, reports and working papers have been requested by the Subcommission during the five-year period covered by this report. In 1988, the Subcommission entrusted several international human rights experts with the preparation of studies or reports on the following topics:

(a) Violations of the human rights of staff members of the United Nations system and their families;

(b) An international instrument on freedom of religion and belief;

(c) Treaties, agreements, and other constructive agreements concluded between indigenous peoples and States in all parts of the world;

(d) Recent developments with regard to traditional practices affecting the health of women and children.

63. In 1989, the Subcommission mandated studies on:

(a) The right to a fair trial;

(b) Human rights of detained juveniles;

(c) The interrelationship between peace and human rights;

(d) The privatization of prisons;

(e) The right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(f) The right to freedom of expression and opinion;

(g) Discrimination against HIV-infected people or people with AIDS;

(h) Possible ways and means of facilitating the peaceful solution of problems involving minorities.

64. In 1990, the following new studies were requested:

(a) Human rights and the environment;

(b) Strengthening the independence of the judiciary and the protection of practising lawyers;

(c) Ownership in control of the cultural property of indigenous people;

(d) Human rights and extreme poverty.

65. In 1991, the new studies mandated by the Subcommission included:

(a) Measures to strengthen respect for the cultural property of indigenous people;

(b) The impunity of perpetrators of violations of human rights;

(c) The right to adequate housing.

66. In 1992, the Subcommission requested the preparation of studies or reports on the following subjects:

(a) The transition to democracy in South Africa;

(b) The human rights dimensions of population transfer;

(c) Peace and security as an essential condition for enjoyment of human rights.

67. In 1993, the Subcommission requested the preparation of studies and reports on the following topics:

(a) Recognition of gross and large-scale violations as an international crime;

(b) Human rights and income distribution;

(c) Draft principles and guidelines for the protection of the heritage of the indigenous peoples;

(d) The exploitation of child labour and debt bondage;

(e) Systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during wartime, including in particular internal armed conflict;

(f) Programme for the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities;

(g) Question of the implication for human rights of United Nations actions, including the humanitarian assistance in addressing international humanitarian problems and in the promotion and protection of human rights.

68. The above list of topics includes only new studies and reports requested by the Subcommission in each of the years indicated. However, during the same period, many other studies previously requested by the Subcommission were continued or completed.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURES THROUGH THE PROVISION OF ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

69. The United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955, which, inter alia, authorized the Secretary-General to make provision at the request of Governments and with the cooperation of the specialized agencies, where appropriate, for the following forms of assistance with respect to the field of human rights:

(a) Advisory services of experts;

(b) Fellowships and scholarships; and

(c) Seminars.

Regional and national training courses were added in 1976 and 1986 respectively.

70. All these forms of assistance aim at:

(a) Furthering knowledge and understanding of international human rights standards and their normative content, with a view to promoting their widest application;

(b) Facilitating the implementation of international human rights; and

(c) Providing technical assistance to Governments in the establishment and development of national infrastructures for the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights norms.

71. The Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services and Technical Assistance in the Field of Human Rights was established by the Secretary-General on 16 November 1987 pursuant to resolution 1987/38 of the Commission on Human Rights and decision 1987/147 of the Economic and Social Council, with the objective of providing additional financial support for practical activities for the implementation of international conventions and other international instruments on human rights promulgated by the United Nations, its specialized agencies and regional organizations.

72. On the basis of the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, practical activities to be financed by the Voluntary Fund include:

(a) Support for international cooperation aiming at building up and strengthening national and regional institutions and infrastructures that will have a long-term impact on improved implementation of international conventions and other international instruments on human rights promulgated by the United Nations, the specialized agencies or regional organizations (resolution 1992/80, para. 16);

(b) Expert and technical assistance to Governments with a view to creating and developing the necessary infrastructures to meet international human rights standards (resolution 1990/59, para. 5);

(c) Projects and programmes that can play a catalytic role in the practical realization of internationally recognized human rights standards (resolution 1990/59, para. 7);

(d) Projects for legal protection and the strengthening of the independence of the judiciary (resolution 1992/80, para. 23).

During the period 1988-1993, the Centre continued to implement all the components of the programme outlined above.

73. Recently, a comprehensive review of the programme has brought about a shift in the working methods for its implementation. Under the new approach, the Centre will respond to a Government's request by conducting a careful assessment of that country's particular human rights assistance needs. Assistance programmes are then to be designed to address those needs in a comprehensive and coordinated way. Specific programme elements are to be financed and administered either by the most competent international agencies or organizations, or on a bilateral basis. The Centre for Human Rights will implement directly those projects for which it has a unique or specific competence, drawing on the considerable expertise developed by its staff in those areas, and serve as a focal point and coordinator for other programme elements relating to the human rights needs of the country involved.

74. Most recently, in its resolution 1993/85, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to evaluate the needs of the Government of Georgia for support and technical assistance. Advisory services for that country are aimed at furthering legislation in constitutional and institutional matters and at providing national and local institutions with the necessary expertise to implement international standards in the field of human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, in close contact with the Government and the citizens of Georgia.

75. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action emphasized the importance of measures aiming at assisting in the strengthening and building of institutions relating to human rights and in the conduct of free and fair elections. It also stressed the importance of assisting Governments in strengthening the rule of law, the promotion of freedom of expression and the administration of justice, and the real and effective participation of the people in the decision-making process.

76. In addition, the Declaration emphasized the need for the implementation of strengthened advisory services and technical assistance activities by the Centre for Human Rights. Strengthening the institutions of human rights and democracy, the legal protection of human rights, training of officials and others, broad-based education and public information programmes aimed at promoting respect for human rights should be available as components of these programmes.

A. Electoral assistance

77. The Centre for Human Rights, through the programme of advisory services and technical assistance, has provided electoral assistance to a number of countries

25. In 1992, the Commission decided, by its resolution 1992/77, to appoint a Special Rapporteur with a mandate to prepare a report on the situation of human rights in Haiti. It should be noted that in 1991, the Commission, by its resolution 1991/77, had appointed an independent expert under Advisory Services to examine developments in the human rights situation in Haiti and to help devise measures to make the necessary improvements.

26. In 1992, by its resolution 1992/58, the Commission decided to nominate a Special Rapporteur to establish direct contacts with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including political leaders deprived of their liberty, their families and their lawyers, with a view to examining the situation of human rights in that country and following any progress towards the transfer of power to a civilian government and the drafting of a new constitution, the lifting of restrictions on personal freedoms and the restoration of human rights in Myanmar.

27. At its first special session held on 13 and 14 August 1992 according to the procedure established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/48, the Commission adopted resolution 1992/S-1/1 entitled "The situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia", in which it decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur to: (a) investigate first hand the human rights situation in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, in particular within Bosnia and Herzegovina; and (b) gather and compile systematically information on possible violations of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, including those that might constitute war crimes, and to make this information available to the Secretary-General.

28. The Special Rapporteur was requested to visit areas of interest in the former Yugoslavia and to present a preliminary report on an urgent basis to the members of the Commission within two weeks, including recommendations for bringing violations to an end and preventing future violations. He was also requested to report his findings and recommendations to the Commission periodically until the Commission's subsequent regular session and to report to the General Assembly as well. The Commission further requested the Secretary-General to make the reports available to the Security Council.

29. A second special session was held on 30 November and 1 December 1992 to consider the report of this Special Rapporteur. At the time this report was prepared, the Special Rapporteur, whose mandate was extended by one year by the Commission at its forty-ninth session (resolution 1993/7), had presented seven reports. On the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur, the General Assembly, by its resolution 47/147 of 18 December 1992, requested the Secretary-General to make available all the resources necessary for the Special Rapporteur to carry out his mandate and, in particular, to provide him with sufficient staff based in the territories of the former Yugoslavia to ensure effective continuous monitoring of the human rights situation there and coordination with other United Nations bodies involved, including the United Nations Protection Force. Pursuant to this resolution, four officers had been deployed to Zagreb at the time this report was prepared.

30. In 1993, the Commission decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur to make a thorough study of the violations of human rights by the Government of Equatorial Guinea on the basis of all the information that he considered relevant,

including information furnished by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and by private individuals and, in particular, any documentation provided by the Government of Equatorial Guinea. His report is to be submitted to the Commission.

3. Advisory services

31. In 1993, by its resolution 1993/86, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to appoint for a period of one year a person having wide experience in the field of human rights as an independent expert to assist the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia through the development of a long-term programme of advisory services for re-establishing human rights and the rule of law, including a democratic constitution, as well as the eventual holding of periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage and secret ballot.

32. By its resolution 1993/6, the Commission also requested the Secretary-General to ensure a continued United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia after the expiry of the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and to appoint a Special Representative to guide and coordinate that presence, as well as to maintain contact with the Government and people of Cambodia and to assist the Government in the promotion and protection of human rights. He is to report to the General Assembly and to the Commission on Human Rights on these matters.

4. Working Group on the Right to Development

33. In 1993, by its resolution 1993/22, the Commission decided to establish, initially for a three-year period, a Working Group on the right to development, composed of 15 experts nominated by Governments to be appointed by the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights on the basis of equitable geographical representation and in consultation with the regional groups in the Commission. The Working Group has the following mandate: (a) to identify obstacles to the implementation and realization of the Declaration on the Right to Development, on the basis of information furnished by Member States and other appropriate sources; and (b) to recommend ways and means for the realization of the right to development by all States. The Working Group will submit to the Commission at its fiftieth session a report on the obstacles affecting the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development and continue to report yearly to the Commission.

B. New mechanisms entrusted to existing bodies

34. On 25 May 1990, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1990/48, in which it authorized the Commission on Human Rights to meet exceptionally between its regular sessions, provided that a majority of States members of the Commission so agreed. When this report was prepared, the Commission had resorted to the new procedure on two occasions: in August 1992 and November 1992, to examine the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (see paras. 27 and 29 above).

and in a variety of contexts since 1990. Such assistance was provided to Romania in 1990, and to Albania in 1991.

78. The Centre continued and enhanced its activities in the area of electoral assistance in 1992. Cooperating with the new Electoral Assistance Unit established by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/137 of 17 December 1991, the Centre provided such assistance to six countries in eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia at the request of their Governments. These were Angola, Cambodia, Eritrea, Lesotho, Malawi and Romania (for the 1993 elections).

79. In 1992 and 1993, the Centre's activities in the area of electoral assistance included:

(a) The provision of advisory services and technical assistance in the legal, technical, and human rights aspects of democratic elections;

(b) The drafting of a handbook on the legal, technical and human rights aspects of elections;

(c) Training of electoral and other public officials involved in elections;

(d) Assistance to civic education endeavour;

(e) Legal and procedural analysis of electoral and related legislation (including consideration of the impact of nationality, emergency and security laws); and

(f) Analysis and recommendations with regard to the prevailing human rights atmosphere, with special emphasis on those rights seen as prerequisites for free and fair elections, including freedom of expression, assembly, association, opinion, information, non-discrimination, and freedom from intimidation.

B. Constitutional and legal assistance

80. Pursuant to the directives of the General Assembly and the Commission, the Centre continued to provide assistance to Governments in the drafting of national constitutions and legislation. Most recently, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolutions 1991/50 and 1992/58, recommended to the Secretary-General that the provision of expert assistance to Governments in their efforts to meet international human rights standards should continue to increase.

81. During the period 1988-1992, the Centre provided assistance for the inclusion of human rights norms in national constitutions to Bulgaria, Mongolia, Paraguay, Romania, and South Africa:

(a) A conference on the theme of human rights in constitutional and legal developments was held in Bulgaria in 1991;

(b) In 1990 and 1991, to assist the Mongolian authorities in the drafting of a new national Constitution, the Centre for Human Rights organized a programme of cooperation with the Government, during which a mission of experts provided advisory services on issues relating to human rights in constitutional law;

(c) At the request of the Government of Romania, the Centre provided advisory services and technical assistance in connection with the drafting of the new national constitution through the organization of a seminar in December 1990 and a mission to that country in February 1991;

(d) In 1991 in cooperation with the World Council of Churches, the Centre organized a seminar on international human rights standards and constitutional law. The seminar brought together specialists from South Africa involved in the preparations for the drafting of the new constitution with international experts to explore how international human rights standards could be expressed in constitutional law;

(e) In November 1991, the Centre organized in Paraguay, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of that country, an international symposium on a comparison of constitutional reforms.

82. In addition, from 1988 through 1992, the Centre provided the services of experts to more than 40 Member States involved in the process of democratization and the introduction of legislative changes in the Americas, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and Western and Eastern Europe. Further, in 1993, legal assistance was extended to Belarus and the Russian Federation. Finally, as indicated in paragraphs 75-77 above, the Centre provided expert assistance also regarding the legal and technical aspects of democratic elections, the establishment and strengthening of national infrastructures for the protection and promotion of human rights and the establishment of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, including national human rights commissions and ombudsmen.

C. Training courses and seminars

83. The Centre continued to provide assistance in the establishment of independent national judiciaries, and training for national officials involved in the administration of justice, such as judges, lawyers, police, and prison and military officials. Training materials directed to a variety of such professional groups are currently being produced by the Centre, in order to broaden the dissemination of the principles covered by the courses themselves.

84. Other ongoing activities focus on curriculum development and teacher training to assist Governments in their efforts to build a culture of human rights beginning with the youngest members of society. State officials, including those responsible for the drafting of periodic reports to the various United Nations treaty bodies, also receive training from the Centre. Finally, support and training is provided to national non-governmental organizations to strengthen civil society.

85. The Centre has adopted a new approach to teaching and training activities under the advisory services programme. Courses are now designed for the particular audience addressed, so that human rights principles are integrated into syllabi relevant to the work and responsibilities of the target group rather than presented abstractly from the point of view of international instruments. The principles are discussed in conjunction with ways of carrying out responsibilities, while respecting international norms. This has meant revising the curricula, identifying experts familiar with international norms and the concerns of the occupational or age group involved, and drafting new teaching materials.

86. Altogether, from 1988 to 1992, the Centre for Human Rights organized, in cooperation with national institutions and Governments, nine seminars, 16 workshops, four conferences, two meetings of experts and 26 training courses for government officials, international legal and human rights experts, representatives of national institutions, non-governmental organizations, law enforcement officials, librarians, electoral officers, political party members, lawyers, judges, professors, students, researchers, and journalists. These courses were given in Africa (10), Western (16) and Eastern Europe (6), Asia (7), the Middle East (2), North America (1) and Latin America (12). The subjects of these courses included: constitutional and statutory development; traditional practices affecting the health of women and children; preparation of reports to United Nations human rights treaty bodies; indigenous self-government; national human rights institutions; the techniques of transmitting human rights information; free and fair elections; human rights in a democratic society; de facto racial discrimination; international protection of human rights; international human rights standards and the administration of justice; the teaching of human rights; international human rights standards and constitutional law; the implementation of United Nations mechanisms in the field of human rights; international human rights standards and national legislation; human rights, democracy and economic and social development; human rights in Africa; the implementation of international human rights instruments and the administration of justice; the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights; the cultural dialogue between the countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers; and the situation of human rights in specific countries. The Centre also collaborated in the organization of more than 100 seminars, workshops and meetings convened by national and regional institutions, academic and research institutions and non-governmental organizations in different parts of the world.

D. Fellowship programme

87. To enable States to develop the infrastructures necessary to meet international human rights standards, the Centre for Human Rights administers a fellowship programme for those professionals who are directly involved at the national level in functions affecting human rights, particularly in the administration of justice. In the selection of participants, particular attention is paid to ensuring both equitable geographic representation and equitable participation by women. Participants in the programme come from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe. In 1988, the Centre received 62 nominations from 43 countries; 24 candidates were selected for participation. In 1989, 65 nominations were received from 45 Governments and 29

fellowships were awarded. In 1990, 53 Governments proposed 85 candidates for the programme. Again, 29 fellowships were awarded. In 1991, 63 Governments proposed 92 candidates. Due to the increased number of requests, the number of participants was increased to 41. In 1992, 62 Governments nominated 116 candidates, of whom 45 were selected.

E. Field presence

88. Long-term assistance to countries undergoing a transition to democracy, especially in the establishment of solid national infrastructures for the promotion and protection of human rights, can be significantly assisted through a United Nations human rights field presence. In 1992, a field officer of the Centre for Human Rights was deployed to Guatemala to provide support to the independent expert responsible for examining the situation of human rights in Guatemala and provide assistance to the Government in the field of human rights.

89. As indicated in paragraph 32 above, in its resolution 1993/6, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to establish an operational presence of the Centre for Human Rights in Cambodia. The office mandate is to manage the implementation of educational and technical assistance and advisory services programmes and ensure their continuation; to assist the Government of Cambodia established after the election, at its request, in meeting its obligations under the human rights instruments to which it has recently acceded, including the preparation of reports to the relevant monitoring committees; to provide support to bona fide human rights groups in Cambodia; contribute to the creation and/or strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; and to continue to assist with the drafting and implementation of legislation to promote and protect human rights. Pursuant to this resolution, the Centre established its office in Cambodia on 1 October 1993.

F. Inter-agency cooperation

90. To avoid duplication and improve efficiency in the use of limited available resources, the Centre for Human Rights actively pursues coordination with other United Nations organs, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations. Every year, the Centre convenes an inter-agency meeting on human rights issues to review joint programmes and to exchange information on a number of ongoing activities. These meetings are usually attended by representatives of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Department for Humanitarian Affairs, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, and many international and regional organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system.

91. Further inter-agency cooperation is reflected in the new approach to technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights. As indicated in paragraph 73 above, the Centre conducts needs assessment missions to identify the overall needs of the Government that requests assistance in the field of human rights. While some needs are addressed directly by the Centre, other agencies and bodies are encouraged to undertake other programme elements within their competence. The Centre acts as a focal point for coordination of all the elements identified by the mission.

IV. ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

92. On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the General Assembly, by its resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988, decided to launch the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights to increase awareness and understanding of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to educate the public on international human rights machinery and the efforts of the United Nations to promote and protect human rights.

93. Since then, the Campaign has been on the agenda of the Commission on Human Rights. Most recently, in its resolution 1993/49, entitled "Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights", the Commission reaffirmed that activities to improve public knowledge in the field of human rights were essential to the fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations set out in Article 1, paragraph 3 of the Charter and that carefully designed programmes of teaching, education and information were essential to the achievement of lasting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It also affirmed that a World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights was a valuable complement to the activities of the United Nations aimed at the further promotion and protection of human rights world wide.

94. Placing the Campaign in an even broader context, the World Conference on Human Rights affirmed that human rights education, training and public information were essential to the promotion and achievement of stable and harmonious relations among communities and to fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and peace.

95. In keeping with the objectives set forth in the resolutions of both the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations Department of Public Information is developing its information and education programme, since information leading to awareness and knowledge of fundamental rights and freedoms represents an essential element of the universal realization of the standards already set in the field of human rights.

A. Publications programme

96. The development of printed materials on human rights is one of the main activities of the information programme of the Centre for Human Rights. These materials are distributed to national and regional human rights institutions,

academic and research institutions, the media, non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals.

97. The Centre has recently undertaken a thorough and comprehensive revision of its information programme, both reviewing and renewing its overall information strategy as to policy, goals, target readerships and methods of work. Each of the major series of publications produced by the Centre is being analysed according to the criteria of utility, fulfilment of its original objective, suitability of its present format and efficiency in its production. It is expected that significant changes will be introduced in respect of several publications to maximize their reach and effectiveness. The Centre is also studying ways to improve the current methods of disseminating information on human rights, in terms of efficiency, promptness and responsiveness to the needs and expectations of the public.

1. Information materials

98. The Fact Sheets series consists of booklets for a non-specialized readerships that deal with specific topics, as well as with different aspects of United Nations activity in the field, including the international mechanisms for the protection of human rights. The Fact Sheets are translated into six official United Nations languages and distributed world wide free of charge. Owing to the increased demand, several Fact Sheets have been reprinted. Since 1988, the Centre has published 20 Fact Sheets.

99. The Human Rights Study series reproduces studies and reports prepared by Special Rapporteurs on important human rights issues that have been mandated by various human rights bodies, such as the Commission on Human Rights or the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Six issues have been published so far in this series; each is available in the six official United Nations languages. Studies on the right to development and the exploitation of children are being prepared.

100. Sixteen ad hoc publications have also been published since 1988. They include largely reports of seminars or workshops organized by the Centre.

101. A commentary on the Convention on the Rights of the Child is being prepared in cooperation with UNICEF. The legislative history of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is also being prepared for publication in collaboration with Radda Barnen International, a Swedish non-governmental organization.

102. Five issues of the Bulletin of Human Rights have been issued, in English and French, by the Centre since 1988. They contain articles on human rights topics by leading government and academic experts. The Centre has currently suspended publication of the Bulletin, which will probably be replaced by a scholarly publication focusing on the United Nations system for the promotion and protection of human rights and containing contributions from academic experts and United Nations staff members. The revision under way aims at overcoming some problems encountered in the past in the production of the Bulletin and improving its overall quality.

103. The Human Rights Newsletter began in 1988 and appeared quarterly in English and French until July 1992. It contained articles on the activities of the United Nations bodies dealing with human rights, including the Centre for Human Rights; interviews with experts in the field of human rights; information on training courses, seminars, workshops and other meetings organized by the United Nations; and information on the activities of non-governmental organizations dealing with human rights. After a first evaluation by the Centre, the Newsletter has been discontinued until a more careful revision of its role and contents can be made and adequate staff can be assigned for its production.

104. The Centre is devoting considerable efforts to the elaboration of teaching materials at all levels. ABC teaching of human rights, issued in 1989 and available in all six official languages, is being reprinted in order to respond to an increasing number of requests from teachers' organizations, educational institutions and international organizations. The Centre has also issued a teaching manual on human rights, Teaching and learning about human rights: a manual for schools of social work and the social work profession as part of a new series of publications. Two manuals, the first on free and fair elections and the second on international standards on pre-trial detention (the latter drafted in cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch) are also being published. Three more manuals are being developed on the following subjects: human rights for law enforcement officials; national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights; and human rights in the administration of justice.

105. The Centre contributed to the preparation of general United Nations publications, such as the United Nations Yearbook and Everyone's United Nations.

106. The Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information has been coordinating the translation and authentication of regional and local language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Centre is now reviewing the translations project with a view to increasing both the range of instruments translated and the number of language versions produced. To this end, it is formulating a strategy in relation to the three instruments that compose the International Bill of Human Rights, aimed at identifying the language versions that currently exist and those that remain to be produced.

2. Reference material

107. The reference publications of the Centre for Human Rights are addressed to a more specialized audience. They are also sales publications, and are as follows:

(a) United Nations action in the field of human rights. This publication, which appears every five years, is the standard United Nations reference work in the field of human rights. The last issue, covering the period from 1945 to 1988, is available in English and Spanish. The French version is being printed. An updated version was prepared in June 1993 in view of the World Conference on Human Rights.

(b) Human Rights: a compilation of international instruments. This publication contains the basic international instruments in the field of human rights. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991 on the World Conference, the 1993 version will consist of two volumes, the first devoted to universal instruments and the second to regional instruments. The first volume of the compilation has been published in English; the other five language versions, as well as the second volume, are being printed.

(c) Human Rights: status of international instruments in the field of human rights. This publication contains detailed information including ratification, reservations, objections and declarations in relation to the human rights instruments contained in the Compilation. An updated version is being prepared. A chart showing ratification status appears every six months.

(d) The Yearbook on human rights. This publication contains information on international developments in the field of human rights, including activities undertaken by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as the activities of the various human rights bodies outside the United Nations system. The Yearbook also surveys national developments in the field of human rights and includes information on trust and non-self-governing territories. The volumes concerning 1980 to 1988 are currently available in English. The volume for 1989 is being finalized. The Yearbook is also being thoroughly revised by the Centre and it is expected that the next editions will significantly differ from the previous ones as to both content and structure.

(e) Official Records of the Human Rights Committee (formerly United Nations Yearbook of the Human Rights Committee). The 1981-1982 edition of the Yearbook of the Human Rights Committee is available in English and French. The 1983-1984 edition is being issued in English; the French version is being prepared. The 1985-1986 and 1987-1988 editions are being printed.

(f) Human Rights Committee: selected decisions under the Optional Protocol: Volume 1 - 1977/1982 (second to sixteenth session) is available in English, French and Spanish. Volume 2 - 1982/1988 (seventeenth to thirty-second session) is available in English; the Spanish version is being printed. The Arabic, Chinese, French and Russian versions are being prepared.

B. Inter-agency cooperation

108. On several occasions, the Commission on Human Rights has requested the Centre to coordinate activities of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights within the United Nations system, and to maintain liaison with Governments, regional and national institutions and individuals concerned in the development and implementation of those activities. It has also emphasized the need for the United Nations to harmonize its public information activities in the field of human rights with those of other organizations, such as ICRC, UNHCR and UNESCO in their respective fields of competence.

109. As part of its ongoing efforts to coordinate its activities with those of other United Nations bodies and in keeping with the above-mentioned resolution, the Centre for Human Rights convenes each year in Geneva an inter-agency meeting

on human rights issues (see para. 89 above). These meetings allow participants to review joint projects and to exchange information on a number of ongoing activities in the field of human rights carried out by the respective organizations. They also provide an opportunity for identifying further forms of cooperation. Information, documentation and education in the field of human rights is one of the items on the agenda of each of these meetings.

110. In implementing its publications programme, the Centre cooperates with other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations. Examples of this cooperation are the manuals on human rights for law enforcement officials and judges and lawyers and the manual on pre-trial detention, prepared in cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch; the Fact Sheets on discrimination against women, being prepared in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women.

C. Briefings, exhibits and human rights observances

111. As part of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, the Centre organizes more than 100 briefings on United Nations activities in the field of human rights issues each year for students, diplomats, journalists, public officials, teachers, academics and non-governmental organizations. In 1988, the Centre cooperated with the British Broadcasting Corporation in the realization of a documentary film on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The Centre also provides lecturers for the briefings organized by the Department of Public Information.

112. During 1988, a number of activities were organized with the Department of Public Information to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. At that time, a Human Rights exhibit was offered, displaying all human rights materials. During 1990, the Centre organized three exhibits: one on the art of aboriginal Australia; the second on Auschwitz; and the third on crimes against mankind. A number of exhibitions are regularly sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights, especially in connection with human rights events such as meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

113. Official commemorations are organized by the Department of Public Information and the Centre for Human Rights each year in New York and at Geneva, as well as at United Nations information centres and other information services throughout the world. In 1988, a special programme of activities was organized for the observance of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. These activities included daily seminars, film screenings and other audio-visual displays, exhibits and the production of commemorative material. During the same year, a commemorative session of the General Assembly took place. During this session, the Human Rights awards were granted to six individuals for their outstanding contributions in the field of human rights. A similar ceremony is being organized for 1993. A celebration of Human Rights Day, 10 December, takes place every year at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

V. ENHANCING NATIONAL AND EXISTING REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

114. The Centre for Human Rights, taking into consideration the directives of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights that regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights should contribute to the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, has continued to pursue and strengthen its contacts and cooperation with the established regional organizations in the field of human rights, namely, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights of the Organization of African Unity (OAU); the Inter-American Commission and Court on Human Rights of the Organization of American States (OAS); and the European Commission and Court of Human Rights (ECE) with a view to exchanging information and experiences in the field of human rights. The Centre for Human Rights has also continued to collaborate with other regional institutions and organizations, including the Commonwealth Secretariat Human Rights Unit; the International Institute of Human Rights at Strasbourg, France; the Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo, Italy; the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights at San Jose, Costa Rica; the Andean Commission of Jurists at Lima, Peru; the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies at Banjul, the Gambia; the Arab Institute for Human Rights at Tunis, Tunisia; the Institute Henri Dunant at Geneva, Switzerland; and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of the University of Lund, Sweden.

115. Information is exchanged on a regular basis between the United Nations and the regional organizations regarding the status of ratification of human rights instruments developed under each system. Following a recommendation of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights at its first session, the updated versions of two publications of the Centre for Human Rights - Human Rights: a compilation of international instruments and Human Rights: status of international instruments - now include the texts of regional human rights instruments. This task was facilitated by close collaboration between the Centre and the regional organizations concerned.

116. The Centre for Human Rights has continued to pursue and strengthen, through its advisory services and technical assistance activities, the promotion of human rights in various regions of the world in order to promote an exchange of information and experience in the field. These activities are described in detail in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights on advisory services in the field of human rights. 6/ Other activities of the Centre for Human Rights in the area of regional arrangements were described in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/167 of 18 December 1990 (A/47/502).

117. In accordance with requests of the Commission on Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights has devoted particular attention to the question of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region. Close contact has been established and maintained with all States of that region, as well as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in order to promote the development of a regional human

rights arrangement. Also in response to requests from the Commission on Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights has consolidated this cooperation through its programme of advisory services and technical assistance by organizing a number of activities, including seminars, training courses and workshops at both the national and regional levels for Asian-Pacific countries. Details on these activities may be found in the report mentioned above to the Commission on Human Rights 7/ as well as in the Secretary-General's report to the Commission on Human Rights on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights for the Asia and Pacific Region. 8/

B. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

118. The subject of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights has been dealt with since 1979 in several resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. In accordance with directives from these bodies, the Centre for Human Rights has been engaged for a number of years in collecting information on the structure and functioning of national institutions that are involved in promoting and protecting human rights. In 1991, the Centre for Human Rights organized an International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which was held in Paris from 7 to 9 October. A full report of the Workshop is contained in a report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights. 9/ The principal result of the Workshop was a set of guidelines on the structure and role of national institutions that provides States with a frame of reference for the development or reform of their own infrastructure for promoting and protecting human rights. These principles were endorsed by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session. Subsequent efforts of the Centre for Human Rights to disseminate these principles are documented in a report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights.

119. As its role has been defined by the Commission on Human Rights, a central objective of the advisory services and technical assistance programme of the Centre for Human Rights is to consolidate and strengthen further the role that national institutions can play in the protection and promotion of human rights. Assistance to national institutions under the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme takes several different forms. Firstly, the Centre offers its services to Governments that are considering or are in the process of establishing a national human rights institution. Assistance in such cases may be financial or may involve provision of the services of an expert to advise governmental authorities on suitable models and the transmission of technical information and comparative legislation to facilitate the task of legislative drafting. If a national institution has already been established, the Centre is able to offer similar forms of assistance to strengthen the institution and enhance its capacity to play a central role in human rights protection and promotion.

120. Increasingly, the Centre is attempting to utilize the services of existing national institutions in the implementation of its country programmes. In this context, the national institution may cooperate with the Centre in organizing training courses and seminars, translating human rights instruments or coordinating the work of national non-governmental organizations. This approach

offers distinct benefits to both sides. A national institution can be an important facilitator for the Centre in its work and is often in a position to provide crucial administrative, technical and substantive support. The institution can be strengthened internally through its cooperative work with the Centre and gain much needed support from both within and outside the Government.

121. Other activities of the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme related to national institutions are not oriented towards a particular country or institution, but instead are aimed at promoting the concept of national human rights institutions and encouraging their development on a widespread basis. To this end, the Centre has produced information materials and is currently developing a practical manual for those involved in the establishment and administration of national institutions. The Centre has also conducted a number of seminars and workshops to provide government officials with both information and expertise in the structure and functioning of such bodies. These events have also served as useful forums within which to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment and operation of national institutions.

122. The World Conference on Human Rights recommended the strengthening of United Nations activities and programmes to meet requests for assistance by States that wish to establish or strengthen their own national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. It also encouraged the strengthening of cooperation between national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and recommended that representatives of these institutions convene periodic meetings under the auspices of the Centre for Human Rights to examine ways and means of improving their mechanisms and sharing experiences.

123. Additional information on specific projects for national institutions undertaken both within and outside the framework of the programme of Advisory Services and Technical Assistance of the Centre for Human Rights may be found in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/124 of 17 December 1991 (A/48/340).

Notes

1/ E/CN.4/1991/20.

2/ E/CN.4/1992/13.

3/ E/CN.4/1990/39.

4/ See resolutions 1991/20, 1992/15 and 1993/16 of the Commission on Human Rights.

5/ A/CONF.157/9.

6/ E/CN.4/1993/61.

7/ Ibid.

8/ E/CN.4/1993/32.

9/ E/CN.4/1993/33.